MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JANUARY 1982

Israel

Haig Visit -- On his arrival for further talks on Palestinian autonomy and the peace process, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig was welcomed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Jerusalem radio reported. According to another radio report, during their meeting Shamir quoted to Haig a series of Egyptian statements favoring a Palestinian state in the territories and supporting the idea that the autonomy model should be acceptable to the PLO. Shamir emphasized that an agreement would be impossible if Egypt adhered to such a position. In a comment carried by the radio, Interior Minister Yosef Burg said that some of the ideas presented by the United States to bridge the gaps can "promote things," while on others there will be arguments.

Jerusalem radio reported that in a talk with Haig Prime Minister Menahem Begin rejected the proposal to allow east Jerusalem Arabs to vote in the autonomy council elections because the city is not within the autonomous area. According to the radio, Haig proposed that the council consist of 40 members and be empowered to issue urban regulations, but Begin said Israel would continue to oppose legislative powers for the council, and both Begin and Burg said Israel's objection to an enlarged council is designed to preclude the impression that it is a legislative body.

According to a later Jerusalem radio report, Burg told correspondents that in the talks with Haig Israel reiterated its right to settle in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

Agreement With Egypt -- ITIM reported that Israel and Egypt signed an agreement whereby Israel will build four Egyptian border posts with Egyptian financing.

Sudan

Numayri in Aswan -- MENA reported that in a press conference after his meeting in Aswan with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, President Ja'far Numayri claimed to be completely confident and assured about security and stability in Sudan. He said the recent dismissal of 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and 22 officers was part of the process of "continuous change and reorganization" affecting those who have nothing new to contribute to the nation. According to the law, he added, senior officers are retired after 2 or 3 years in order to give a chance to suitably qualified colleagues. Describing the recent school strikes as a victory, Numayri added: "Let the students go on strike." He said there is a new awareness in Sudan, adding that democracy is a legitimate right.

Noting that the plan for U.S. military aid is still current, he emphasized that the United States has not delivered the first consignment of its aid program to Sudan.

In a statement on his talks with Mubarak, Numayri said that Sudan and Egypt are drawing closer and closer. According to MENA, the meeting was held at Mubarak's request to study Sudan's economic and military needs before his forthcoming visit to the United States and Europe.

Numayri returned to Khartoum on the afternoon of 27 January, SUNA reported.

Internal Situation -- SUNA reported that in a speech to a popular meeting in Waw, Maj Gen Qasam Allah Rasas, chairman of the Transitional Higher Executive Council for the Southern Region, stressed the need to preserve peace in the south and appealed to the armed forces to maintain law and order in the region. Citing a Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) official, SUNA also noted that President Numayri will meet shortly with a number of civil leaders.

Egypt

Mubarak on Haig, Aid -- In a lengthy interview with AL-AKHBAR, President Mubarak said he was extremely frank with Secretary of State Haig in their last meeting and will be so again when he receives him next time. Mubarak said he welcomes Haig's visit but wonders what new element the secretary of state can be bringing with him. The president also said he wants more flexibility in U.S. economic aid, which needs a "new look."

Soviet Relations -- The London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that Egypt has not yet decided whether to accept the Soviet offer to improve the performance of 2 of the Aswan High Dam's 12 turbines. Citing Electricity Minister Muhammad Mahir Abaza, the paper said negotiations are still in progress. ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT noted that speculation has linked the participation of Soviet technicians in developing the dam turbines with the normalization of Egyptian-Soviet relations.

Nonmention of 'Mutiny' -- Tripoli radio claimed that a serious mutiny occurred at a military base near Alexandria. However, monitored Egyptian media have not mentioned any such incident.

Libya

Allegation on U.S. Forces in Chad -- A People's Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA alleged that elements of U.S. forces are among some of the African peace-keeping units in Chad. Warning that such a presence will place Chad within the sphere of international conflict and terming it a "grave development" that Libya cannot ignore, the statement called upon the OAU and fraternal African countries to "shoulder their responsibility in this respect."

Denial of Contacts With Egypt -- JANA reported that Libya categorically denied Kuwaiti press reports about alleged contacts between Cairo and Tripoli. Citing a statement issued by Libya's political mission in Kuwait, JANA said Libya's position toward Egypt is not a matter of bilateral disputes or personal attitudes, but depends on Libya's pan-Arab commitment and the fact that Egypt had thrown itself in the lap of "Zionism and U.S. imperialism." According to the statement, Egypt could return to the Arab fold if it abrogated all ties with the Zionist enemy and U.S. policy.

Syria

In written answers to questions by Beirut's MONDAY MORNING, Syria's ambassador to Washington described Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's recent visit to Moscow as "very successful" and added that the Soviet Union restated its readiness to consolidate Syria's defensive capabilities to enable it to shoulder its responsibilities.

Iran

A Tehran radio commentary claimed that the construction of a highway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia will be the third step toward total annexation of Bahrain by Saudi Arabia. The radio claimed that the United States supports the annexation of Bahrain by Saudi Arabia for political, security and strategic reasons.

Tehran radio's Arabic service asserted that the military alliance among the six Gulf Cooperation Council states is aimed at Iran and popular Islamic movements in the region.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT STRESSES RELATIONS WITH USSR 'STRATEGIC'

NC271329 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jan 82

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] attended a banquet last night given by the Lebanese Communist Party in honor of the Soviet delegation led by Comrade Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU International Relations Committee.

The banquet was also attended by the secretaries general of the revolution's groups, some members of the Executive Committee, Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Comrade Muhsin Ibrahim, and leaders of the Lebanese National Movement.

Speeches were exchanged at the banquet expressing the depth of the Soviet-Palestinian friendship and Soviet support of the Palestine question and the Lebanese people's struggle.

Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed that our relations with the Soviet Union are strategic and reflect that we are in same trench, in the same position against imperialism, Zionism, racial colonialism and fascism.

Addressing the head of the Soviet delegation, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We look to you, comrade, the CPSU, the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc full of hope, as friend to friend, a view which the Soviet Union adopts in considering the questions of liberation and progress in the world.

Brother Abu 'Ammar praised the deep alliance between the National Movement and the Palestinian revolution.

Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the head of the Soviet delegation to convey his warm condolences to Comrade Brezhnev and the Soviet people on the death of the progressive international struggler, Suslov.

Speaking at the banquet, Comrade Brutents thanked Brother Abu 'Ammar and Comrade George Hawi for the hospitality accorded to him and the Soviet delegation. He reaffirmed that the Soviet Union will continue to support the just Arab struggles and the Palestinian Arab people's so they can obtain their sacred national rights and their right to set up an independent state. He said: I would also like to stress that in the Soviet Union we will continue to understand the struggle of the Lebanese people and their National Movement for Lebanon's integrity and independence.

In his speech, Comrade George Hawi said: We would like to affirm the determination of the Lebanese people and the Lebanese National Movement to maintain cohesion with the PLO, not only in defending its presence in Lebanon but also in contributing to its legitimate struggle to completely restore the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to set up an independent state in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, which is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. The National Movement also affirms its adherence to the common struggle alongside the PLO and all Arab forces of steadfastness and resistance, particularly Syria, to jointly repel all plots.

AL-FAHUM CRITICIZES FRAYJ, ASH-SHAWWA STATEMENTS

NC271214 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum today strongly criticized the statements by the mayors of Bethlehem and Gaza which call for recognition of Israel. He described these statements as defeatist. Al-Fahum said the statements by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa totally contradict the Palestine national charter and the Palestinian people's unanimous refusal to recognize the Israeli occupation.

FATAH OFFICIAL VIEWS FAHD PLAN, FES SUMMIT

GF200658 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 19 Jan 82 pp 19; 20 Jan 82 pp 7, 16; 21 Jan 82 pp 7, 12

[AL-KHALIJ editorial staff interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member -- place and date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-KHALIJ: The topic still preoccupying political circles in the Arab world is Prince Fahd's plan. On the Palestinian level, several different stands on the plan have emerged. We are particularly interested in knowing Fatah's stand. Fatah leaders have made different statements, some supporting the plan, others expressing reservations and others opposing it. This is the first part of the question. The second part is: What was the real Palestinian stand on the eve of the Fes summit, and what is the PLO's assessment of what happened at the Fes summit? How do you view the effects of the summit's failure on the entire Arab situation?

Khalid al-Hasan: It seems to me that there was no contradiction in the declared stands of Fatah's leadership. The statements that were made -- and it may not have been necessary to make them but for what was said by others -- were complementary. For instance, the statement by Brother Hani al-Hasan that related what took place in the meetings of the Fatah Central Council and Central Committee -- a statement that defined what the Palestinians want from Fahd's plan -- was no more than formal definitions except for one point. It would have been possible to discuss these definitions at the Fes summit or even with Saudi Arabia. Fahd's statement to the press turned into a stand and then it turned into an initiative. The press turned the statement into an initiative, or this is what Saudi Arabia did in reaction to the clamor raised by the press regarding the plan. There were some issues that could have simply been discussed, especially when Fahd declared that he was referring the plan to the Arab summit and stressed that it would be up to the summit to amend, add to, reject or approve the plan. Thus, the plan was not proposed in a manner that meant it should be accepted or rejected as is -- no Saudi pressure was exerted to bring about the adoption of specific stands on the plan. The matter was left to the Arab summit in Fes. Similarly, when it discussed the plan, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] decided to refer it to the Arab summit without adopting a stand on it. The council did not approve the plan nor was it presented to the Arab summit in the GCC's name. The entire plan was presented to the Arab summit as it was. I believe this was wise, for the Baghdad summit had resolved that no separate stands should be adopted. A proposal must be made and referred to the Arab summit.

There are similar plans, but what makes this plan different is that if it becomes an Arab plan and Saudi Arabia becomes its leading advocate on the international level, the plan will be supported by Saudi Arabia's influence and special position in the Western camp. The press may have the right to voice its opinion on the plan before it is discussed [officially] -- indeed, this may be its duty -- and it may be the citizens' right to voice their views as a kind of democratic practice in formulating a stand on the plan, but what happened is that the reactions of some leaders of [presumably Palestinian] factions were far from responsible. It is not the task of a political decision to assess what the people say. This is the task of the press, the citizen and later the historian. It is the task of the leader to react with the event. Since the matter was going to be referred to the Arab summit, there was no need for such reactions. It is premature to react on the basis of accepting or rejecting a decision prior to its discussion by everyone.

Syria did not define its stand on Fahd's initiative. A statement was made by the [Ba'th] Party's official in charge of external relations but there was no government statement. When he presented his credentials in Jidda, the Syrian ambassador voiced support for the plan and not against it. Some Arab countries supported the plan. Some approached the plan as though it were proposed by the United States or another non-Arab country. The difference is that the plans that come from us are stands, while what comes from others can be accepted or rejected, because the plans of others are not decisions that bind us. Only what we decide can be binding on us.

When a plan is discussed it will have to be accepted or rejected. Thus Fatah's statements were not contradictory. They said what the plan should also include. For example, the plan should also specify that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. I do not believe that Saudi Arabia or other parties can reject such a phrase because it was not stated in the eight-point Saudi plan -- and ultimately it appeared in one form or another. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify the matter, and this is not a problem.

The Palestinian stand on the recognition of Israel is crystal clear. No one -- including Saudi Arabia, which did not refer to recognition of Israel -- can compel us to recognize Israel. All the points in the plan are taken in one form or another from Arab summits. It can also be said that the plan's seventh point -- around which so much fuss has been raised -- was also inspired by Arab summit resolutions. When these resolutions talk about truth in the present stage, this does not mean the elimination of Israel. The elimination of Israel is the ultimate goal and not the goal of the present phase. When the resolutions of the Arab summit in Baghdad and other summits call for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the area, they mean peace can be realized only if the following points [as published] are achieved:

1. Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The ultimate significance of this is not the elimination of Israel, but its withdrawal from a part of Palestine. It can also be said that this point has been taken from [UN Security Council] Resolution 242 -- although Saudi Arabia has not officially declared its acceptance of this resolution.

Resolution 242 says it is the right of the countries of the area to live in peace and within secure and recognized boundaries. The Saudi plan omits the phrase, "within secure and recognized boundaries." Is this omission intentional or was this merely the way the sentence was phrased? Questions should have been asked about these matters before attitudes were defined -- because if Saudi Arabia, or Prince Fahd in particular, did not complete the sentence as it appeared in Resolution 242 and the phrase, "within secure and recognized boundaries" was deliberately omitted, then this has great political significance. If Prince Fahd was not thinking of Resolution 242 and only meant this sentence to appear as is, then one should ask: Is it meant to recognize Israel or not? Some people say the plan uses the term "coexistence," which means naturalization and contractual peace.

Coexistence means that we live together. Those who reject the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty cannot put forward a plan that has the same basis. Moreover, what is the motive of this plan? Was there prior agreement between Saudi Arabia and the United States on this plan or was there not? Did Saudi Arabia agree with Europe on the plan or not? Was the plan merely a press statement that turned into an initiative? Is it a test balloon or a step forward? Is it a Saudi decision to lead the confrontation or merely a stand declared to the press that was turned into a political stand and adopted by the leadership on the moral level? All these questions and many others should have been asked and answered.

Nobody asked, but there were violent and unjustifiable reactions. For instance, some factions of the Palestinian resistance said the current international situation and the present balance of power does not justify proposing such plans. They said the balance of power is not in our favor and, therefore, no initiatives should be taken at this time.

The Palestine National Council, Syria and other Arab countries welcomed the Brezhnev initiative proposed in April 1981. Did the strategic balance exist in April 1981 and not in August 1981? Brezhnev's initiative calls for guaranteeing the security and sovereignty of the countries in the region, including Israel. This initiative was welcomed. How can anyone who welcomes such an initiative reject one that is better? The answer given to this argument was: There is a difference between a brother's stand and a friend's stand. We should not accept from a brother what we may accept from a friend. This is logical, but is not being neutral. One is merely making an appraisal and saying: Brezhnev's stand is a step forward and, therefore, is to be welcomed as an encouraging sign, while Saudi Arabia is a fraternal country and its plan is not a step forward. We should not make appraisals nor is this our role, because when a leadership accepts or rejects [presumably a proposal] it commits itself to a stand.

Let us assume that Brezhnev's initiative has succeeded, that there is international detente and that the United States agrees -- as it did agree immediately after the 1973 war -- to the convening of an international conference. What about that which has already been agreed upon? What will my stand on it be? What is important is one's stand, because it is a commitment and not an appraisal. It is a matter of a decision and, therefore, it does not matter whether the initiative is proposed by a friend or a brother. What is important is what the stand is on the initiative -- for the stand is the same as the decision. I cannot say that Brezhnev's initiative is a sound basis for a just solution and then reject this initiative. If I did, I would have two stands and not two appraisals. I am not the judge of which is better. I am a leader and, therefore, committed to the stand I take. Consequently, these reactions had nothing to do with the contents of the plan. Did these reactions have anything to do with the fact that one initiative came from Moscow while the other came from Riyadh? If the seventh point in Fahd's plan means recognition [of Israel] and is, therefore, rejected, does recognition through Moscow's initiative become a progressive and acceptable recognition? Is recognition through Riyadh's initiative a reactionary and, therefore, unacceptable recognition?

Where is the unity of stand and where is the relationship between the stand and the welfare and between the stand and the cause? Such reactions are blackmail aimed at extorting the masses or the countries led by people of such stands. This is known and it is no secret. This was the pain in dealing with Fahd's plan.

A delegation from the command should have been formed and should have visited Brezhnev to understand from Moscow the overall content of its plan and to ask questions and then visit Riyadh to meet with Crown Prince Fahd and ask him the same questions and other questions to understand his plan. After that, the command should have met and adopted a stand. It should have then met with Fahd again to inform him of our stand and the possibilities of reaching an understanding. The issue would have then been left until the Fes summit where it would have been open for disucssion and an appropriate decision would have been made on it. Decision is man's property; it is not an imposed state. It is made in coordination with the command, provided that I have the courage and responsibility of a leader.

No one can force me to approve or reject anything. In this way, things should have proceeded other than the way they did, especially since the owner of the initiative, or the plan, did not say: This is my project, either adopt it or I will boycott you. Rather, he said: Amend, add, extract, delete, reject or approve, for you are free and the plan is not my property.

We should not practice intellectual terrorism nor should we monopolize opinion. It cannot be that all that others do is wrong while all I do is right. It cannot be that my view is implemented while the views of others are not. Monopolizing opinion is more dangerous than an economic monopoly because an economic monopoly leads to rebellion, revolution and change, while monopolizing opinion means negating judgment and the real powers of the mind. How can a leader be without a mind? What, then, has Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said? He said: Please do not make arbitrary statements -- we are living at a time when interests of enemies and friends overlap. I believe this is one of the most superb things I have heard. It describes the current political situation. The matter needs discussion so that we can understand it very well. We should not err in making statements or we will return to where we started. We should not speak arbitrarily. What has Abu 'Ammar said? He said: The plan is a good basis for discussion. In his meetings with Crown Prince Fahd and others he said: I have reservations about the seventh point. I want to know in what form will we deal with it?

These are responsible words. Yet, how can you accuse, reject or talk about a second Camp David and such things while it was only yesterday that Brezhnev's initiative, which ensures the security and sovereignty of all countries in the region, including Israel, was approved? This means that if Israel's sovereignty is nullified, Brezhnev will be responsible for this and later for restoring its sovereignty.

Therefore, in reviewing statements, we notice that there was no contradiction in the statements made by the command at the time these statements were made. Nevertheless, there was a contradiction between Fatah's stand and the stand of commands of other organizations. After Al-Asad's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, those who had previously spoken differently supported Saudi Arabia.

AL-KHALIJ: Has the (political) solution been exhausted? Plans are still being proposed in the current Arab situation which has influenced them. These plans are being proposed amid the pressuring U.S.-Israeli situation. Accordingly, any plan for a political solution will ultimately lead to something like that which was reached on the Egyptian-Israeli front, or we can even say that more concessions will be made because the military option is basically ruled out -- not because it is not there, but because the current Arab situation rules out the military option. There is no preparation for a national battle. Will not moves to reach a political solution lead to more concessions?

Khalid al-Hasan: It is very difficult for me to make final judgments on such matters. Just because As-Sadat capitulated and surrendered does not mean everyone will surrender and capitulate or that anyone who negotiates will surrender and capitulate. Finally, to reject or to approve is a personal decision because no one can force you to drink tea or not drink it. This is an example of dealing with a certain issue. The second point is that I, personally, cannot deal with the word "settlement" or the word "solution," because this would mean to close the file and end the issue. Therefore, we always insist on the term "temporary goal."

Achieving the temporary goal is not a political solution because this does not mean the problem has been solved. The problem between the Jews and us will not be solved unless one of us is eliminated. There are natural contradictions, not mental ones. This is not a political dispute liable to change if one of us changes his ideology. Anyone who understands the real reasons behind the establishment of Israel will be able to see the degree of enmity toward the Arab nation in establishing this state. Consequently, the contradiction was originally between imperialism and freedom. Imperialism and freedom cannot meet or be reconciled. One of them has to perish in favor of the other whether in effect or in reality. The issue between the Zionist enemy and us is similar. One of us must perish.

If the Arabs put forward a clear, definite and correct strategy, and if they adhere to it, we promise that we will be followers and soldiers. We will be soldiers without "ranks." But tell me about one country that has a strategy. The B aghdad summit made the decision to regain the strategic equilibrium without defining the goal in regaining strategic equilibrium. It did not say whether the goal was to establish military strength to support the issue during negotiations or whether negotiations and words about peace were a cover to build up strength for a military solution. No one knows. What is the use of a decision if you do not have the means to execute it or a goal behind it and if you do not know who will implement it? We make flamboyant decisions but they are unpractical.

Therefore, we cannot apply the faults and weakness of others to us. Not all Arabs are traitors. If As-Sadat was a traitor, it does not mean that all are traitors. As-Sadat was punished for his treachery by Egyptian hands and not by Palestinian or Arab hands. This proves the genuineness of the Egyptian people. That is why the political issue -- which I do not call the issue of peace -- is a temporary goal which can be achieved through political or military means. If the temporary goal is attainable through political means, there is no victory in the war. If it is not attainable politically, there must be war.

We are now in a no-war and a no-political situation. Arab strategy is absent. The only people who have a strategy and are able to implement it are the Palestinians. Palestinian strategy will be very limited if there are no Arab potentials to implement it.

If Ash-Shariqah says it will conclude a strategic agreement with the Soviet Union and will grant it military facilities, what will happen in the United States? What is the significance of Ash-Shariqah among international powers and policy? What does it represent? Yet it will possess power out of proportion to its size if it properly exploits the struggle between the Soviets and the Americans. If we, the Arabs, adopt a policy of nonalignment, this means that we are fulfilling the Arab nation's interests, not those of Washington or Moscow.

International law is the law of the strong countries at the time when decisions are made. When the Security Council was established, the charter was exemplary. However, the superpowers monopolized the veto in order to avoid passing any resolution. This is in line with their general basic principles with which they mock other people.

If the Arabs agree on Fahd's plan, will it be practically implemented, if Arab potentials -- foremost of which are Saudi potentials -- do not turn into a force that deals with the plan? Talk about political solutions is totally meaningless. Are Saudi Arabia and the Arabs prepared to turn their potentials into a force to implement the plan? If the plan is not implemented, will the force be employed in a way that harmonizes with the international stands at this stage? This is a kind of war or a kind of politics and political analysis. When we take issues objectively, as when we say a political solution is either suitable or unsuitable, this is similar to accepted or unaccepted negotiations. As a principle, negotiations are not acceptable, rejected. It is logical to say that you reject or accept negotiations for certain reasons.

The principle of the temporary goal is there. Yet I say the temporary goal is that I will militarily restore half of Palestine while I do not possess even two guns. Talk about such issues is fruitless and frustrating because talk about military issues without an army or talk about politics without policy is very abstract and frustrating. This is a kind of philosphical sophistry and has nothing to do with political action.

AL-KHALIJ: To complement what you have talked about, there are two issues before us. The first is the issue of the PLO Command's political initiative. Statements by the factions are contradictory, and right and wrong are being monopolized, as you said. This allows us to say there is no PLO political initiative. As a revolution, why do we wait for Fahd to propose a plan for us and then send a delegation to see what Brezhnev says? No, no, we should not wait. We should agree on temporary programs, representing the minimum for all factions.

Khalid al-Hasan: Anyone concerned should not be passive. He should define his stand clearly. Otherwise, it will be useless. A stand is not only a principle, even if it is a temporary one; rather, it is a method of action. The Palestine National Council defined the stand and its framework when it said: a national state on any liberated part without reconciliation or definite recognition. The Arab summits -- especially the Baghdad summit -- defined a stand. We can say that what came before that summit were convulsions because the Rabat summit was an immense transition toward the definition of the stand. Then came the Baghdad summit which defined the stand. The At-Ta'if summit defined the stand more comprehensively but without specifying measures. This was the shortcoming of the Baghdad summit resolutions, the Palestine National Council resolutions and the At-Ta'if summit resolutions and it is still there.

We cannot recognize Israel because that is impossible. I challenge any Palestinian official to say: I am ready to sign the recognition of Israel. That is impossible. Even Resolution 242 did not mention the "normalization" of relations. It said countries in the region should live within secure and recognized borders. It did not say you must establish political, economic and diplomatic relations. Those issues certainly cannot be discussed because they touch upon sovereignty. Therefore, they are pushing us to establish a government-in-exile to lead us to practice sovereignty. [sentence as published]

Establishing a government-in-exile at this time is ruled out. It is a way of embroiling or involving us, a thing which clashes with struggle and action and even with the temporary goal. If the Arab summit agreed on a final settlement, it would not define the goals of its resolutions as a temporary goal. This does not mean a settlement. A temporary goal in struggle is not temporary unless its achievement is a step toward the ultimate goal. How can it be a settlement? How can I -- under the slogan of a temporary goal -- close the Palestinian file and thus nullify my legitimate struggle. The Palestinians defined their principled stand and measures, but there was no Arab response. Fahd's plan came and was handled similarly because there was no coordination.

Because the Arabs were indifferent, Fahd proposed his plan. For the first time, Fahd said U.S. policy toward Israel is wrong because it is unlimited and because, should it continue, the United States would bear the consequences. One of the conditions he set was that the United States should change its stand toward Israel. Is Saudi Arabia's confrontation of the United States a small matter? The United States rejected Fahd's plan and thus Saudi Arabia found itself faced with two things: Either it had to swallow its threats against the United States and thus carry no weight in the Arab arena or it had to commit itself to them.

We are agents for the Arab force, not ideologies. As Palestinians, we want to know where the center of power that paves the road to Palestine is located. What should we have done? Fight? Should we let them kill us and let ourselves kill them until the Palestinian struggle motivates Arab feelings in a way that ultimately changes the Arab stand? The situation cannot remain stagnant for long. The mentality and the thinking of the summit must change or the situation will not [as published] remain stagnant and tepid. But if rulers resort to tyranny, it will be the beginning of the end, of whatever kind. As for us, we depend on the Arab situation, and so we have to wait until it improves so that we can fight. Otherwise, we will remain idle.

AL-KHALIJ: With reference to Palestinians serving as agents or as lackeys of an Arab power, we all agree on the Arab situation now. There are many examples of how we can beg for assistance while we possess economic power and power that would realize our demands. Nevertheless, we see that this power is being turned against us. Thirty or 40 years ago, when foreign armies and bases were present, we were stronger and had hope. Now we are paying for that occupation. Where is the Palestinian cause, which is the central Arab cause? If this is the state of the Palestinian cause, how can I, as a Palestinian, feel happy about plans and initiatives that are being proposed by regimes that have not yet proved they are capable of standing up to imperialism? On the contrary, to preserve themselves these regimes have been begging for assistance. This reveals a kind of contradiction in the Arab world.

Khalid al-Hasan: Had there been an objective discussion at the Fes summit, the Palestinians would not have discussed the plan with approval or disapproval. The Palestinian stand involved not only mere reservations on article seven. Above all, the Palestinians were concerned with the execution of the plan, because there was no real will for execution that would turn your potential into power to be used against your adversary on the bases of mutual interests rather than on the basis of shutting off the oil. If you shut off the oil, you are opposed. However, you can increase oil prices, cut your production or transfer your business from the United States to somewhere else. You can transfer your assets from the United States to somewhere else.

AL-KHALIJ: This is not said openly on behalf of the PLO. It is discussed within the walls of the Arab summit conference, with due respect to our meeting. However, I want the Arab people and the Palestinian masses -- who are aware of the objectives of the Palestinian revolution -- to know that Arab wealth, with all its potential, is in complete abeyance and is being used to serve hostile plans. Until 1971 the Palestinian leadership spotlighted the weakness of the Arab world.

It is true we were subjected to relapses and insults and attacks. However, as an Arab Palestinian revolution, our power was based on the fact that we constituted a strong light on the Arabs' defects in order to unveil everything. Why have we lost even this spiritual power? Every few weeks, the Palestinian leadership sets off on tours and holds meetings. Why? Come on, you possessors of Arab wealth, what do you do with your wealth? You present plans to us. Can you carry out these plans? Are you ready to employ your wealth militarily and politically to serve this simple resolution at this phase? I would support Saudi Arabia if it could use its wealth to liberate the Gaza Strip and the West Bank so I could establish the Palestinian state. However, wealthy Arab countries do not want to let us achieve even this simple shrunken goal.

Khalid al-Hasan: I do not blame any part of the Arab world. We are all to blame. The method of action was supposed to have been discussed at the Fes summit. The Fes summit was not set up to discuss draft resolutions. Therefore, Palestinian approval is not necessary. We do not want only a well-drafted plan. We want assurances regarding the method of action, and the first such action would be to link the economy with political action. Since the first Arab summit conference in 1964, the Arabs have been striving for such action. We were able to reach a decision on it at the Amman summit conference. Now we should struggle to implement this decision.

These decisions [as published] would be the greatest tranquilizer of the masses. However, they lack the mechanism of implementation; they do not define the goal of restoration of strategic balance and do not specify who will restore such a balance. Is it Syria? Jordan? Syria, Jordan and the PLO? Will Iraq and Saudi Arabia join them, or will all Arabs join them in various roles? Each one of them will eventually participate financially, but this group has the military force to constitute a strategic military balance with the adversary. The Arabs ran way from that, and to run away means to avoid action. Consequently, this is futile. It is time that the masses understood this talk. Scientifically speaking, nothing justifies the stand of any regime whether it is progressive or reactionary -- although I personally do not believe in the existence of progressive or reactionary regimes in the scientific sense -- because such regimes have not reached the level of a genuine reactionary, progressive, leftist or rightist regime. We have jelly-like, absentminded societies and everyone is held responsible. When I see the right insult and blackmail the left, I should realize that the right has a certain ability to go in a certain direction but cannot exercise it unless the other party does. In other words, Saudi Arabia cannot use its economic potential and clout alone. I do not mean Saudi Arabia in particular but all oil-producing countries, because no oil country constitutes anything fundamental alone.

Countries in the Gulf cannot give you armies. They can give you a battalion. Fifty soldiers from Ash-Shariqah are enough for me as a symbol. Fifty soldiers from Abu Dhabi or 1,000 soldiers from Saudi Arabia are enough for me as a symbol too. These countries cannot give me more than that. However, they can subsidize me with other things.

AL-KHALIJ: U.S. official and unofficial sources have begun to allege that the Palestinian presence in the Gulf has a negative effect on security in the Gulf. A great deal has been said about that. Moreover, there are those who criticize the Palestinian revolution for its friendship with the Iranian revolution and link all this with the current situation.

Khalid al-Hasan: Linking Iranian and Palestinian arms is wrong, because there is no relationship at all. Whoever imagines that Palestinians would be an Iranian instrument for disrupting regional security is not only wrong but rather crazy. No matter how much it is in our favor, the Iranian stand cannot compensate for the Arab stand. It is impossible from any logical standpoint -- the logic of Islam, nationalism, progressivism or patriotism. However you examine it, the Arab stand on the Palestinian cause cannot be compensated by any other stand, even if it involves world support. If the Arab stand is not with us, the world's stand will have no value.

We know that the United States continuously issues warnings about the Palestinian presence in Gulf countries. We have noticed that special restrictions have been increasingly imposed on the moves of Palestinians in the Gulf. These restrictions cause us great pain, because they are not in the interest of Gulf security. Every Palestinian lives in two situations: his need to work to live and his need to support his revolution to express his Arabism and nationalism.

The Gulf countries provide job opportunities to Palestinians. Within the framework of the Arab situation, the Gulf countries offer a great deal to the Palestinian struggle. Consequently, there is no reason for any Gulf official to fear the Palestinian presence. On the contrary, the Palestinian presence that is respectfully and compassionately dealt with provides an element of stability in the Gulf. If the Gulf were exposed to any danger, Palestinians would be fighting in the vanguard. 'Abd al-Karim Qasim's [former Iraqi president] endeavors with respect to Kuwait proved the strength of Palestinian support in defending Kuwait. The matter is too clear to be discussed. Through intimidation and the continuous spreading of reports that are secretly passed around either through conversation among embassies, their employees, officials or those in contact with officials in the region, or through reports leaked to us as secret reports so as to gain importance, the United States seeks to mislead the Palestinian people in order to lead them into a state of despair.

AL-KHALIJ: In a statement during a public celebration of the revolution's anniversary, the PLO representative [presumably in the UAE] said that Palestinian elements have been arrested and handed over to the proper authorities.

Khalid al-Hasan: "I will talk about that subject point by point." [quotation marks as published] Therefore, I say frankly that Palestinians should be treated as human beings and not as privileged individuals. No one asks that Palestinians be treated in a distinguished manner, but only as any other resident here. If a Palestinian makes a mistake, he should be treated within the limits of the law just like anyone else.

No Palestinians were involved in the Bahrain plot, and no Palestinian has ever been involved in any Arab conspiracy. Before the flareup of the Palestinian revolution, we were in every conspiracy and in any coup in the Arab world, because we sought power that could lead us to Palestine. When the revolution broke out we no longer cared about such things.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC MINISTERS AGREE ON INVESTMENT FUND

LD271318 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Jan (SPA) -- The GCC finance and national economy ministers today concluded their meeting with an agreement for creating a Gulf investment fund, Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the finance and national economy minister, said here. Following the conclusion of the two-day meeting, which concentrated on discussing economic issues of the Gulf states, Shayka Muhammad Aba al-Khayl said the fund's activities will go beyond the Gulf region.

He disclosed that a legal experts committee will meet next February to finalise the draft for the Gulf investment fund. Shaykh Aba al-Khayl said the finance ministers will be meeting again next June to ratify the unified economic agreement. Meanwhile, Bahrain's finance minister, Mr Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim said the meeting has madebig strides toward the implementation of an agreement for lifting tax and custom duties between the GCC states.

The six Gulf states have a daily output of 11.5 million barrels of oil, nearly a quarter of all the oil used in the non-communist world.

Their estimated daily oil income of $400 million makes the area attractive for banking, joint venture projects and other development schemes.

The unified economic agreement was concluded by the heads of state of the six at a summit conference in Riyadh last November.

It provides for free trade, ease of travel and residence and coordination of oil, industry, trade, technology, transport, monetary and banking policies.

It also calls for a joint investment policy and coordination in giving international and regional development aid.

In addition to existing joint banking ventures in the Gulf, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and some foreign firms are partners in an aluminium project in Bahrain.

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are also involved in a $510 million cement plant, the biggest in the Middle East, under construction in the kingdom.

The two countries, with Kuwait, are to build a $400 million petrochemical complex and a $600 million fuel processing plant in Bahrain.

BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON IRANIAN THREAT

JN261025 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 23 Jan 82 pp 10-12

[Interview granted by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah to AL-MUSTAQBAL correspondent Riyad Najib ar-Rayyis in Manama -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Given all the elements of conspiracy in the Gulf region, namely Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman, does this mean that the threat menacing the regime and its stability is internal?

[Answer] Not at all. There is no internal danger. It is an external danger in which Gulf sons were exploited. They were exploited by way of their sect. They were instigated under religious revolutionary slogans in an attempt to sow the seeds of discord and division and to wipe out stability.

[Question] Let us be more specific. Where is the external danger about which you are talking when the plot was concocted by elements from Bahrain and the Gulf?

[Answer] The external danger is Iran and the present regime in Tehran. This Iranian regime is instigating the Shi'ites in Bahrain and in the Gulf under slogans of the Islamic revolution and with a sectarian motive against the Arab Gulf states and their regimes. The regime in Iran is exploiting the Shi'ites in Bahrain and the Gulf, encouraging their political ties with the ruling ayatollahs in Tehran, training them in the use of weapons and acts of sabotage and sending them to their countries to foment chaos and shake security.

[Question] But some people believe that the state has overestimated the size of the plot. What do you think of this?

[Answer] This is not true. The state has not exaggerated the plot. The plot is aimed at sowing discord and fomenting troubles, not at overthrowing the regime. Exaggeration, if there was any, was caused by the citizens, who were taken by surprise and astonished.

[Question] But don't you think that this exaggeration, which is a result of the ceaseless talk about the plot, might cause a rift in a small country like Bahrain between its two sects -- the Sunnis and the Shi'ites?

[Answer] May I repeat that there was no exaggeration. All that we are doing is enlightening the citizens to the fact that they are living in a dangerous area and that this danger is now threatening their necks and property. We are exposing the conspirators and the way in which Iran is instigating the Shi'ites against the Sunnis and inciting sectarian sedition in a homogeneous society like that of Bahrain. It is our right to enlighten the people and to draw attention to the dangers menacing them. In the past danger was far away; but nowadays it is in their area.

Gulf Response Urged

JN231501 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Paris, 23 Jan (WAKH) -- The Bahraini prime minister, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, has urged the Arab Gulf states to intensify their joint efforts so as to confront the danger facing them as a result of the recent discovery of the sabotage plot in Bahrain.

In an interview published today in the Paris-based AL-MUSTAQBAL magazine, the Bahraini prime minister asserted that the Iranian regime constitutes a primary threat to the Gulf states just as the Zionist entity is threatening the Arab east. He explained that the Iranian regime's threat is embodied in its expansionist policy of sabotage against the Arab Gulf states and in its attempt to incite and sow sedition. He added: The relations between Israel and the Iranian regime are well-known. Therefore, we must be vigilant.

The Bahraini prime minister asserted that the security of the Gulf lies in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], adding that his country pins hopes on this council. He warned of other acts of sabotage to which the states of the region would be exposed in the future.

His highness the Bahraini prime minister stressed the need for halting all economic and trade dealings between the Gulf and Iran, pointing out that the Iranian regime benefits from its dealings with the Gulf states. He said that the GCC must adopt a unified deterrent to confront all dangers menacing the region.

He explained that his country has ceased its dealings with Iran, including those in shipping and air flights, and has banned the entry of Iranian nationals into Bahrain.

The Bahraini prime minister denied that capital had been smuggled out of Bahrain following the announcement of the sabotage plot.

He added that there had been no smuggling of capital out of Bahrain, that its economic and financial status is sound and that local, Gulf and international confidence in Bahrain's economic policy and political stability is great.

His highness the Bahraini prime minister asserted that security is the primary factor for the protection and progress of the peoples in the Arab Gulf states. He expressed hope that the security agreement signed recently between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia would prompt other states in the Gulf to sign similar agreements among themselves so as to achieve a collective treaty within the GCC framework. He added: Our systems are identical, our laws are similar and the dangers facing us are common. There is nothing new in the security agreements.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah explained that the security agreement between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia embodies security from all aspects. He said that the agreement existed before the discovery of the sabotage plot, but that the decision was made to sign it under the circumstances to affirm their common ties of destiny and Saudi Arabia's readiness to side with its sisters in good and bad days. He explained that the agreement means security coordination between the two countries and that Bahrain would request the help of Saudi forces when necessary.

KUWAIT

AL-ANBA' ON EGYPTIAN CONTACTS WITH ARAB REGIMES

GF271641 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 26 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Algiers -- Arab sources have disclosed to AL-ANBA' that contacts are currently taking place between the Egyptian regime and a number of Arab regimes to minimize the differences existing between Egypt and the Arab world and to restore relations between Egypt and the Arabs to their pre-Camp David state.

The sources have said that Mr [Khalid] Muhyi ad-Din's tour of a number of North African states centered on this issue. During his tour, Mr Muhyi ad-Din, who is a senior member of the Egyptian opposition, explained President Husni Mubarak's intentions and aspirations to restore relations. In this manner, he wanted to prepare for the accomplishment of this step, which the sources expect to take place after the next Fes summit conference.

The sources added that contacts are currently taking place between Egyptian officials and members of the opposition acceptable to the Arab states and a number of Eastern capitals for the same purpose. These capitals have so far responded to these contacts by promising to give serious study to the situation and have said that their stands will depend on future changes that may take place in Egyptian politics.

The sources explained that one of the most distinct initiatives made by President Mubarak toward Arab cooperation was his decision to dissolve the Arab League of Cairo and his instruction to the Egyptian press to report on the Arab League in Tunis and its secretary general, Cheldi Klibi.

IRANIAN POSITION ON GCC MEETINGS CRITICIZED

GF270729 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 25 Jan 82 pp 1, 20

["Opinion" column by chief editor Jasim Ahmad an-Nisf: "The Legitimate Right To Defend the Gulf"]

[Text] The meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers today is as important as the decision to establish the GCC itself.

The threat to security is the real challenge to the Arab Gulf countries. As Kuwaiti Information Minister Nawwaf al-Ahmad noted, the ambitions surrounding the area are from within the Gulf rather than from outside. This makes the security issue a matter of life or death, a matter of present and future for the GCC countries. Military cooperation is the backbone of the GCC. As for other coordination steps, despite their importance, they complement security cooperation.

The threats by the Iranian foreign minister the day before yesterday regarding the meetings of the GCC defense ministers are an indication of the importance and vital need for these meetings. These threats mean that threats to the area are not unlikely because they are being planned by the ruling power in Iran. This power has not yet abandoned the shah's complex which is associated with the dreams of military domination of the Gulf.

Velayati's statements are strange and contradictory. He knows the GCC countries have no aggressive ambitions against other countries. These countries never have any ambitious dreams at the expense of their neighbors. These countries are only practicing their legitimate right of self-defense. This right is guaranteed by all international charters. Giving up this right would imply abandonment of national sovereignty, which no state or people would accept. Does the Iranian foreign minister deny the GCC countries' right of legitimate self-defense? Why does he fear the results of the GCC defense ministers meeting? Does he see in it a contradiction of the Iranian plans of arrogance and hallucination that are aimed at triggering war and unrest throughout the Gulf so that it burns from within before it is burned by ambitious foreign powers?

What is strange is that the Iranian foreign minister reverses facts. If he regards the signing of the Gulf military agreement as a provocation to Iran, what does he call Tehran's insistence on freezing the mediation efforts designed to end the Iraq-Iran war? What does he call Iran's interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain and other area countries? How does he justify the presence of sabotage networks financed and motivated by the Iranian authorities to foment unrest in neighboring countries? How does he justify the organized and planned acts of Iranian pilgrims while performing the holiest Islamic rituals of pilgrimage?

Velayati's statement affirms more than ever that the Iranian threat to the Gulf is not a mere obsession or probability; it is a sort of flagrant "escapade" of Iranian policy, the ambitions of which are unrestrained and attempt to create external fronts by which the Iranian people would be distracted from their overwhelming chaos, disunity and dispersion.

Hence, the GCC defense ministers today bear a great, historic responsibility: the coordination of efforts and unification of military plans in order to protect the Gulf domestically and defend its stability, unity and natural resources.

KUNA CITES PRESS ON WEST BANK MAYORS' STATEMENTS

LD271244 Kuwait KUNA in English 1050 GMT 27 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jan (KUNA) -- AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on reaction to Palestinian mayors' statements:

The instant and decisive (?reaction) of the Palestine Liberation Organization to some statements given by Palestinian city mayors, in which they called upon the PLO to recognize Israel and cast doubts on the legality of its leadership of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, was normal and expected.

This reaction was necessary not only for preventing a downfall but also for conserving the Palestinian blood, not to mention preserving the honor of the Palestinian struggle and preventing humiliating stabs aimed at the simplest of what this struggle could mean.

This solidarity between the Palestinians of the interior and the Palestinians outside is a sign of steadfastness, but on the Arab level it is the cover that conceals the bottomless pit of backtracking and compromises.

The Arab national has tolerated a flood of compromises but it is clear he has reached a stage of saturation...and as such anyone who holds an Arab identity and attempts at encouraging any Palestinian party or individual to make compromises or call for them would only be attempting a crime of betrayal beyong description. Those who remain silent on such development or might remain silent bear the responsibility of the historic punishment since at this point it is no more possible to call this backtracking, objectivity or moderation but bawdry and licentiousness in making compromises.

AL-WATAN on the same subject:

"Suddenly and without introduction we hear Palestinian voices demand the recognition of Israel.

"Maybe it is not surprising to hear them from Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawah because their stances in the past show they are ready to surrender.

"But the real surprise is the timing of these demands. This (the demand) is related to the rumors coming from the Israeli radio and press that there are differences between the Palestinian leaders, and maybe it is one of the elements that drove Ash-Shawah and Frayj to send out balloons of divisionism and mutiny from the unified Palestinian ranks in the occupied land under the slogan of loyalty to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"It is strange that Shimon Peres, the leader of the opposition group, joined the scenario of this game by announcing his refusal to meet the liberation organisation under the allegation that it is facing divisionism and the Israeli opposition group is not ready to recognise the Palestinian right.

"When all this happens and it threatens the Arab world there must be some fingers behind Ash-Shawah and Frayj's statements that are not strange to the fingers of Tel Aviv and Washington, especially (?when) the release of the statements coincided with the American secretary of state's arrival in the region to speed up the surrender procession under the name of the alleged autonomy.

"When do we wake up and see what terrible things are planned against us and what our problems and fates are driven to?"

NONALIGNED MINISTERS TO MEET IN KUWAIT 6-8 APR

LD091424 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Jan (KUNA) -- It was officially announced here that foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries will hold an emergency meeting here next April to discuss the Palestinian issue.

Kuwaiti Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah said that the meeting will be held 6-8 April and will be preceded by a preparatory meeting on the 5th.

QATAR

ERITREAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DOHA 19 JAN

GF200625 Doha QNA in Arabic 2025 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Text] Doha, 19 Jan (QNA) — A delegation representing the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front led by (Salih Ahmad Ayay), chief of foreign relations office, arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi today on a visit to Qatar as part of a tour of a number of area countries.

Upon arrival, (Ayay) stated that during the visit the delegation will explain the latest developments on the Eritrean and African Horn arenas. He also referred to Qatar's stand on the Eritrean issue and the aid it provides to the Eritrean people.

SAUDI ARABIA

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT MAKES ARRIVAL STATEMENT

LD280820 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq of Pakistan described relations between his country and the Kingdom as fraternal.

In a statement on arrival in Jidda yesterday evening, he said that his recent tour of four European countries was successful and will bear fruit. He added that, with the leaders of these countries, he discussed bilateral relations, cooperation and international issues such as those of the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that he sensed great understanding from these countries in support of the efforts being exerted to find a just solution to the Middle East question and a national home for the Palestinians, as well as on the Polish question.

President Ziaul Haq criticized the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, which he said is a catastrophe for the Afghan people. He affirmed that Pakistan will not leave the Afhgans alone to face Soviet occupation but will provide it with all moral and material support, because the Afghans are Mulsims and are being exposed to a communist ordeal. He called on the USSR to take its hands off Afghanistan and to let the Afhgans determine their own fate, adding that if Moscow is really anxious to safeguard human rights and international peace, as it claims, then what justification does it have for remaining in Afghanistan. Does not its presence there pose a threat to international peace and expose the Muslim Afghan people to danger? he asked.

The Pakistani president also praised his country's relations with India, which, he said, were developing.

The Pakistani president yesterday evening performed the minor pilgrimage. He arrived earlier yesterday evening in Mecca, accompanied by Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

AL-MADINAH VIEWS EGYPTIAN-U.S. RELATIONS

GF251946 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 19 Jan 82 p 2

[Editorial: "The American Imbroglio"]

[Text] The recent statement by [Egytpian Defense Minister] Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, in which he said "no" to strategic cooperation with the United States, "no" to U.S. military bases in Egypt and "no" to anti-Soviet blocs are a new and sudden development in Egyptian-U.S. relations and a beginning of the breakup of the ties which former President as-Sadat forged with the United States.

The new Egyptian stand will be met with great satisfaction throughout the Arab world. This is because it is not in the Arabs' interest that their region become polarized by the superpowers.

The important thing which the United States must learn is that it has to deal with the new Egyptian Government on the basis of the national [qawmiyah] demands of the valiant Egyptian Arab people. All the present signs are that the President Mubarak's government will not forfeit Egypt's Arabism and its Arab and Muslim affiliation. It may also be beneficial to the U.S. Government to realize one more important point: The question of the Israeli withdrawal from the rest of Sinai will not restrain the Egyptian Government from allowing th voice of the Muslim Arab Egyptian people to reach everyone. Let Israel not withdraw from the rest of Sinai as scheduled; the Egyptian Army and people -- supported by all the Arabs -- will settle the remainder of their account with the Zionists in a different manner, one that may not be to the liking of the United States.

AR-RIYAD RAPS U.S. ON SECURITY COUNCIL VETO

PM271425 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 24 Jan 82 p 16

[Ibrahim Jazzin article: "End of Moderation"]

[Text] Even moderation is no longer acceptable in Washington. By vetoing the modified Arab draft resolution the Golan Heights the day before yesterday, the United States marked the failure of the "minimum" policy in Arab diplomacy. While it might be suitable for domestic affairs, this policy is no longer adequate for foreign dealings. With the failure of this policy, the Arabs cannot but look for an alternative as a new basis for Arab strategy that will serve general Arab interests. These interests did not benefit at all from any of the previous approaches. It is up to the next Arab summit conference to do something about this, and perhaps take the issue to the next UN session. Despite the big powers' continuous flouting of the United Nations, we still cling to this organization and regard it as an instrument of peace.

Arab-U.S. confrontation inside the United Nations might be late in coming, but when it does come it should demonstrate to the world the magnitude of U.S. support for the Zionist usurpers and show that Washington, rather than working for peace in the Middle East, is in fact intentionally encouraging explosion in the area. Why else would it oppose legitimate Arab rights while at the same time trying to impress upon us through its envoys that is is serious about promoting peace in the most dangerous part of the world?

Washington's support for the aggressor did not really surprise any Arab. Its bias no longer leaves room for doubt because all the masks have fallen.

Tomorrow Washington will come up with an explanation for its open hostility. It will claim that it did what it did to pave the way for forcing Israel to complete its withdrawal from Sinai before withdrawing from the Golan Heights or at least rescinding the decision annexing it. However, we do not believe that Washington will be able to find anyone who will believe these flagrant diplomatic lies and gimmicks. It knows perfectly well that Israel would not be pleased with such claims. Israel has already shown its ill intentions regarding the withdrawal from Sinai as well as the Golan Heights. Washington is thus committing a double error. It is indulging in self-deception on the one hand and destroying confidence with its action in relation to peace in the region.

There is no longer any need for Washington to send envoys to the Middle East on factfinding missions or to urge self-restraint whenever Israel commits aggression against the Arab nation.

It might as well declare that it is enemy number one of the Arab cause, instead of maliciously claiming to be an impartial judge.

Before going to the United Nations, the Arabs should hold urgent and effective consultations now that it has been confirmed that there is no hope of U.S. justice, that the Zionist enemy will only grow more ferocious and its lust for more Arab territory will increase, and that, regrettably, Washington will no longer turn off the green light given to repression and aggression.

MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON SAUDI INFORMATION POLICY

NC251600 Nicosia AL-'ASR in Arabic 15 Jan 82 p 7

[Interview granted by Saudi Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani to AL-'ASR -- date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: It has been noticed recently that the Saudi information media are countering the information media campaigns waged by Iran against the Kingdom. Is this policy directed against Iran alone or does it represent a new trend in the information policy against anyone who attacks Saudi Arabia through the information media?

Answer: Indeed, I would first like to emphasize that we absolutely do not have a policy directed against Iran or any other Islamic state. However, it grieves us much and pains us more that we have been compelled recently to stand up to the campaigns of distortion which are being mounted by a Muslim state, which is supposed to respect what is due to God and the right of the Muslims, neighborhood and Islamic fraternity which link us together and not to pursue any types of vituperation or distortion of anything else which Islam has categorically forbidden.

It was the duty of the information media in Iran to stay away from such mudslinging and distortion campaigns, which have undoubtedly become known and which do not lead in any way to the realization of any noble goal or serve the interests of Islam. We have maintained silence for a long time, because we did not want to engage in vituperations.

However, the cup has overflowed and patience has been exhausted. The world news agencies carried many reports, which Iran disseminated, and published them as if they were authentic. The news agencies kept on doing so, believing that our silence reflected to some extent our satisfaction with these reports or that they were correct and not distorted. This compelled us to stand up to these reports, denying them at times and exposing these commonplace methods through good counselling at others.

However, I sincerely and faithfully hope that God almighty will grant success to the information media in fraternal Iran in making them realize that this type of vituperation will not serve the interests of anybody, achieve any goal or lead to any Islamic aim.

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue our march, God willing, along our previous policy, which is known and clear to all. Our policy is to unite the word and ranks of the Muslims whenever possible. We only answer others when this becomes an Islamic and national duty dictated by our primary duties to God almighty and the citizens of this country.

Question: When a foreigner is punished for violating the law, such as drinking alcohol, for example, the Saudi information media always try not to say anything about the matter. This attitude prompts the Western information media to exploit the situation against Saudi Arabia whereas, in fact, such an action by you is tantamount to the implementation of the law. Don't you believe that it is wrong not to refer to such matters in your information media, and is there any intention to change this information policy.

Answer: As you know, here we keep away from incitement. This is the method followed by the Saudi information, because it is the method which truly represents this Islamic country and all its Islamic prerequisites. Information in our Kingdom represents the Islamic course of a country which God has honored to embrace the two holy mosques and has made the noble Arab Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be with him, spring from this pure and holy land. This is why our information is different in its methods and dealings from any other information.

Despite this, we are keen on announcing the various crimes which violate the Islamic creed or harm the citizens' security, whether they be committed by Saudis or others or even by brothers from states around us or from fraternal Islamic states, let alone the foreign states. We often announce these crimes, and our local papers are full of such announcements, which they consider as "warning announcements". However, the information media abroad rush to speak about crimes before the trial of the defendant is completed and a verdict is issued.

This method conflicts entirely with our method in the Saudi information media. We want the woman, man or any person who is being tried to have his full rights during the trial without any commotion or uproar. When the trial is over and a verdict is issued, we then announce the matter. Those who speak about this question should refer to our local press, where they will find now and then specific announcements about crimes pertaining to corruption, forgery and other crimes. Furthermore, they will find announcements on the major penalties inflicted, such as death sentences and penalties inflicted for theft. We announce these penalties regardless of whether the criminal is from the country or from abroad or whether he is an Arab or a foreigner. There is no discrimination between them, because we apply the law of God Almighty and the law of Islam.

We also apply God almighty's order "And let a party of the believers witness their punishment" [Koranic verse]. This is a method which we follow inall our policies, but we stay away from incitement as much as possible during the trials.

Question: The Saudi Arabian Kingdom had been and still is the target of information campaigns by some states. Do you think that these campaigns are due to the absence of Saudi information, or are you purposely being attacked? Don't you think that it is necessary to have Saudi information centers and publications inside these states?

Answer: In view of the blessing God has bestowed on the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the role we are playing on the Arab, Islamic and international levels, we undoubtedly expect reactions from some people in various parts of the world. We are not surprised by some of the campaigns launched against the Kingdom from time to time. At the same time, however, we thank God for the positive reactions we hear or read regarding Saudi Arabia's roles and efforts. Saudi Arabia has basic roles to play by virtue of its situation as an Islamic state that has the holy places to which Muslims turn. It has holy Mecca, Medina and the burial place of the Prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him.

Because of all of these, we have a great Islamic role. When we play this role and try to fulfill our duty within this framework, we notice that there are many reactions to our role, attempts to combat this role or belittle its value, whether by some friendly or far away states. The purpose is to fight Islam. There are many ideologies which do not want Islam to be highlighted. They very much want to defame Islam. When they direct their arrows at us, we know what the purpose of these arrows is and what the purpose of this clamor is. But we shall go ahead, because we are a nation that has a message and a goal and is committed to this message and goal.

The situation is the same on the Arab level. Our policy is to stay aloof from vituperations and to try to unify the Arab rank. Within this framework we have met hardships and problems.

As for the international level, we have economic value. We also have other important roles, particularly in the spheres of oil policy, economic policy and others. There is no doubt that our assumption of this role places us in very delicate positions in which we expect different reactions.

In short, Saudi Arabia's position, as I said, fully qualifies it to fulfill big roles on the international level, and this may be the reason for the appearance of these hostile currents which I have mentioned.

It is true that Saudi information has, undoubtedly, been deficient in the area of foreign information. We should have established information centers outside the Kingdom a long time ago. However, various plans have now been drawn to achieve this goal. I studied several plans for information activity abroad. I am sure that we can proceed in this regard as soon as the studies and approval of the plans are made. Through such information activity we shall be able to reach the world, every place in these states. We shall also be able to conduct a dialogue with them.

Until such a plan takes effect, we have undertaken some positive steps. We dispatached many young Saudi men and notables to Europe, the United States and other countries on missions we called "people-to-people missions" [term rendered in English] for consultations and dialogue. These delegations includes intellectuals, professors and businessmen. Their mission was constructive and elicited favorable reactions. We cooperated greatly with the Foreign Ministry in this regard. These are missions which are still operating within this framework.

Furthermore, we have also begun opening centers within the limits of the resources presently available to the Information Ministry. These centers are fulfilling their purpose and achieve what we want. We are currently embarking on the formation of the new higher information council, which will be able to crystallize the objectives we have drawn up or drawup new objectives which we hope to achieve.

Nevertheless, Saudi information is still part of Arab information. But the Arab information mode today is in a severe trial. I suspect that Arab information will not succeed unless it is made neutral and is not involved in political diatribes. I also think that Arab information is an expression of the Arab state of affairs. The more Arab image improves, the more Arab information will be able to achieve.

This is on the one hand. On the other hand, we cooperate with the fraternal states in the Gulf. In the coming stages we shall play positive roles within the framework of the Gulf information cooperation. We shall have information centers in foreign countries in general and in the Islamic countries in particular.

Once again I say that in the field of information we feel that we have been very neglectful. We hope to deal with this shortcoming with the resources that would be made available to us, because any endeavor in the field of foreign information requires funds, flexibility and cooperation among the various Arab information systems. I think that we are proceeding on this path. There is much optimism for a bright future, God willing, for Saudi information in particular and Arab information in general.

Question: Following the Fes summit, it has been observed that the Saudi information media have remained almost silent concerning what happened at Fes. Moreover, they have lessened their zeal for the Saudi peace plan. Can Your Excellencey explain the information policy toward this subject and has this attitude by the Saudi information media been deliberate?

Answer: Let me tell you very frankly that our zeal for the Saudi peace plan was absolutely not because it was a Saudi peace plan but because it was prompted by our belief that it would push us forward on an issue that we consider our primary issue.

We, here in Saudi Arabia, consider the Palestinian issue our issue. Therefore, we feel it is our duty to contribute every effort to stop this ordeal which has befallen our Palestinian brothers and put an end to this displacement and dispersion in which they are living.

Our Palestinian brothers are living in camps. The enemy even wants to deprive them of living in these camps, from which it has started to disperse them.

The issue for us was one of great zeal, because we wanted to bypass this crisis, particularly after we felt that the Camp David agreements had failed and had reached a deadend, which from the beginning we had predicted would happen.

However, since the Saudi plan became an Arab plan and was submitted to the summit, our information role concerning this plan has become similar to that of any Arab state.

The plan has become an Arab plan. Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz submitted it courageously and said that with God's blessing we are submitting these points which are included in our plan. We are seeking to submit to our brothers our views so that we may discuss them together to achieve the interest of the Arab nation and our supreme Arab interest.

Without imposing it on anyone, he then presented the plan to them and asked them to discuss it. As everyone knows from the proceedings of the conference as published by the press, the plan was acceptable to everybody, was discussed by everybody and was welcomed by everybody.

Our silence on this subject is not considered a silence [as published]. However, we measure every word we utter so that no one will think we have a special viewpoint regarding this subject. The plan has become an Arab plan, and hence we now have a joint responsibility toward it.

Question: With the crystallization of the Gulf Cooperation Council, embracing the six Gulf states, is there a plan to unite the voice of these states, or will the current stage be content with the joint program production establishment? Also, what has been done regarding the unification of the newscasts?

Answer: First, let me tell you frankly that the Gulf voice, as you termed it, or the Gulf information, was unified before the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The cooperation among us in the information media goes beyond any other type of cooperation.

The Gulf information ministers council began its cooperation 6 years ago in various brilliant ways. We were able to establish pioneer information bodies such as the GULF NEWS AGENCY, which now represents the entire Gulf. It is based in Bahrain. The joint program production center in Kuwait has produced programs of a distinguished and splendid standard. Some of these programs are for children and others pertain to Islamic history. If we consider the future plans, we cannot but shake the hands of the information ministers in the Gulf states in appreciation of what has been achieved and accomplished. The documentation center in Iraq will achieve what is expected of it, God willing. The heritage center in Qatar, which is an important center, will come into existence in the next few days. There are also the Gulf television network in Riyadh, which will coordinate among the various networks, and the Gulf external information plan. All of these are constructive plans drawn up on sound and correct bases. I feel that the Gulf information cooperation came before other forms of Gulf cooperation, because we knew from the beginning the importance of this cooperation, which is now bearing fruit.

Regarding the unification of the newscasts and other issues, there is a trend now to compete in the utilization of the satellites for this purpose. When this is done, some of the important newscasts will be unified. However, each state will undoubtedly maintain its special newscasts, because, as you know, this is a principal part in the radio and television programs of each country.

What is required is cooperation in some of the newscasts or the joint programs. A joint newscast is now broadcast at a specific time of the day by all the Gulf television networks. In the future, we will resort, God willing, to the use of means of communications through satellites for more Gulf cooperation.

Question: When he assumed power, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak instructed the Egyptian information media to stop the campaigns against the Arab states. Do you believe that the time is now opportune to start a positive dialogue, at least, between Egypt and the Arabs and between Egypt and Saudi Arabia?

Answer: First, I believe that the step taken by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is a logical and successful step. The man has proved, from this aspect at least, that he will follow a policy devoid of vituperations and mudslinging and will follow a direction which will take him near the Arab nation. The Arab nation has declared more than once that estrangement with Egypt is not one of its goals. It gives no pleasure to anybody that the estrangement between the Arab states and Egypt should continue. The measures adopted in the past are not an aim by themselves, but they were a means to notify them [the Egyptians] that the agreements which have been concluded do not serve the interests of the Arabs.

When President Mubarak reshapes his policy to the Arab nation, he will find all arms open to him and to this fraternal people in Arab Egypt. We believe that the bonds with this people are deep-rooted and that no person can separate this noble Arab people from the remainder of the Arab nation. We are fully hopeful, God willing, that Egypt will return in policy to the Arab rank and carry out its role as in the past. We are proud of this role and are undoubtedly proud of our love of Egypt and its sons.

Question: The distortion in the methods of delivery in most Arab information media was the reason for the Arab failure to convey a unified stand to the world. What is your opinion about the idea of establishing information media attached to the Arab League and the Arab League defining the media policies, apart from the differences which take place among the regimes in some periods?

Answer: I say with complete frankness that the Arab League is currently passing through a difficult period as regards its sources and its capabilities for communication. The Arab League is now struggling very hard to unite the Arab ranks at a time when many are trying to divide them. The Arab League plans have remained ink on paper. Arab cooperation and Arab information within the framework of the Arab League have been mere talk ever since its establishment. Conferences are held and no results are achieved.

I have attended most of the Arab information ministers' conferences and, regrettably, all of them were disappointing, because we meet and discuss and then find no one fulfilling his commitments. The funds which have been established remain without funds, the communications remain faulty, and then we ask the Arab League to act!

The Arab League cannot act unless all the Arabs feel that they have a desire to act and to use the information media in a proper way. The first move or the first step is to keep the information media neutral and to free them from vituperations as much as possible, make them serve the Arab issues and not impose them on the Arab nation.

We see today that Arab hands are doing more damage to Arab reputation than are the enemies' hands. Arab hands are killing more of our sons than the enemies' hands are. How then can we ask the Arab League to do something other than to wish it success? We ask God to give more strength to the Arab League officials so that they can do more work and make the people throughout the Arab homeland feel that sincere cooperation is necessary. We must realize that our unity lies in the unity of our words and ranks. We must all work with sincere intentions to achieve our real objectives and we must keep away from the peripheral battles that divert us from achieving these objectives.

Question: Has the postponment of Crown Prince Fahd's visit to the United States any relationship with what happened in Bahrain?

Answer: This has absolutely no relationship with the visit.

Question: Will you address a message to the Arab information ministers through the magazine Al-'ASR?

Answer: All I can say to my colleagues the information ministers is that I ask God to give them His support and blessing and more patience and perseverance to shoulder great responsibilities and burdens. The role which they are playing now is great, very great. I realize the greatness of the role which they are playing. I also know that many of them are suffering from what I am suffering from and are aspiring to what I am aspiring. However, with more patience and sincerity, we will be able to ease the pain spreading in our Arab nation and to minimize mudslinging. We must not confuse these generations which we are bringing up.

Our sons in the great Arab homeland must not hear that one Arab country is slandering another Arab country for the sake of transient political objectives. Our role as Arab information ministers is, in my opinion, a big role. Let us minimize such slander as much as possible and let us adhere to the decisions we make as much as possible. The services in our hands are very serious. They are constructive and destructive services at the same time.

Undoubtedly, if we do not fear God and realize the the seriousness of the role we are playing, we will be called to account by God and history, especially in this decisive stage in the history of our Arab and Islamic nation in which we must sense the dimensions of our responsibility. We must work to bring the viewpoints closer, narrow the differences and unify ranks. We must say the truth, if we cannot do this, it is better for us to remain silent, for silence is a good thing in this important stage of our history. I aks God almighty to grant all of us success.

TALKS WITH MALAYSIAN DELEGATION OPEN IN RIYADH

LD251318 Riyadh SPA in English 1220 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Jan (SPA) -- His Majesty King Khalid and King Ahmed Shah today cochaired the opening round of official talks between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, concentrating on developing bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern led by the Palestinian and Middle East problem.

The Kingdom's side at the talks included Crown Prince Fahd, the deputy premier; Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl; finance and national economy minister; Dr. Sulayman al-Sulayyim, the commerce minister; and Dr. Husayn al-Jaza'iri, the health minister.

The Malaysian delegation was comprised of Mr Tengku Ahmed Rithauddeen, trade and industry minister, and Mr. Datuk Shariff Ahmad, minister for land and development.

An official source said the Saudi-Malaysian talks focused on the issues of mutual concern and bilateral close relations between the two Islamic states.

The official source said the talks also covered the promotion of Islamic cooperation between the two states within the framework of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Conference (O.I.C.)

He said the two sides reviewed the Middle East issue and the Malaysian delegation declared its full support to the Saudi Arabian peace plan for the Middle East and expressed its backing for the Arab and Palestinian brothers.

The talks were held in a very cordial, positive and frank atmosphere, the official source added.

AL-MADINAH ON AGREEMENT ON PALESTINIAN AUTONOMY

GF250440 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 21 Jan 82 p 1

[Excerpt] Washington -- AL-MADINAH has learned that the United States and Israel have agreed not to grant the so-called autonomy to the Palestinians unless the autonomy agreement documents are approved beforehand by the United States and Israel.

Quoting a high-ranking senior U.S. official, AL-MADINAH has learned that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir presented the new Israeli stand to the Knesset during a secret meeting the day before yesterday. The U.S. official told AL-MADINAH that he had learned about this from Jewish sources close to the Knesset.

AL-MADINAH has also learned that the call for the secret Knesset meeting was made following a disagreement between Egypt and Israel on the participation of Palestinians in the peace talks currently taking place between them.

BRIEFS

NEW FRENCH, ARGENTINE AMBASSADORS -- King Khalid received the credentials of the new Argentinian ambassador, Roberto Eugnio Emilio Dalton, and the new French ambassador, Pierre Rocalve. Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal attended. [Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jan 82 LD]

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT -- A responsible source has announced that the number of established and operational factories in Saudi Arabia reached 1,200 by the end of last Hegira year, in addition to 800 factories under construction. In a statement to the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, Dr Fu'ad al-Farisi, Saudi Industry and Electricity Ministry under secretary, has said that the ministry is planning to develop many industrial cities during the next 5 years of the third 5-year plan and to establish industrial cities in Medina and Khamis Mushayt. The Saudi official has stated that total government investment is 44 billion riyals. Out of this amount, 17 billion riyals have been invested in the industrial field. Dr al-Farisi said Saudi workers now total 64,000. [Doha QNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Jan 82 GF]

UAE

ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY STRENGTHENING

LD281026 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0939 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Jan (KUNA) -- The establishment of diplomatic relations between the UAE and Hungary was one of the topics discussed by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid ar-Rashid and Hungarian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Robert Garai during their talks here this week, the Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD reports. The paper also quotes the visiting minister as saying that the two countries have agreed to work for the creation of favorable conditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations, "as the UAE affirms the importance of creating firm economic relations as a step toward the establishment of diplomatic relations."

The Hungarian minister is quoted as saying that there are grounds for the establishment of strong economic relations, particularly as trade exchange between the two countries reached $10 million last year and there exist new spheres for further trade cooperation.

The Hungarian minister also said that financial and banking relations have begun and that UAE officials have provisionally agreed to the opening of a Hungarian permanent trade center to promote Hungarian industrial products.

Garai affirmed his country's firm support for the rights of the Palestine people and their just cause and said that the development of relations between Abu Dhabi and Budapest "will further increase Hungarian support in the Palestine question."

YAR

PLO'S 'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN SAN'A', MET BY SALIH

JN211902 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Text] Struggler Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in San'a' at 1630 today on a visit to the YAR as part of his current tour of some Arab capitals.

He was met at the airport by Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, vice president; 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, prime minister; several high-ranking officials; Brother Hikmat Zayd, chief of the PLO office; and heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in San'a'.

22 Jan Departure

JN221443 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Text] Struggler Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, left San'a' at 1030 this morning following a short visit to the republic within the framework of his current tour of several Arab states.

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; the two vice presidents; the prime minister; a number of senior state officials; and Brother Hikmat Zayd, director of the San'a' PLO office, saw Brother 'Arafat off at the airport.

In a predeparture statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother 'Arafat said: I held positive and constructive talks with Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, on various domestic, Arab and international issues, particularly the current difficult circumstances facing our Arab nation in light of serious challenges on all levels, especially that of the Zionist enemy which is daily provoking us. The enemy's latest provocation was its annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. This is in addition to the Israeli military concentrations which are threatening the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples as well as the enemy's practices of terrorism and suppression inside our occupied territories.

'Arafat added: The president's stand was positive and firm.

The two leaders earlier today held talks at the presidential palace, during which they completed the discussion they started at yesterday's meeting. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani; Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani; Assistant Foreign Minister Ghalib 'Ali Jamil; Brother Sakhr, chief of Fatah Revolutionary Council; and Brother Hikmat Zayd, director of the San'a' PLO office.

MUBARAK OUTLINES ECONOMIC PLANS IN PARTY SPEECH

NC261112 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0912 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Speech delivered by President Husni Mubarak at the extraordinary session of the National Democratic Party's (NDP) General Congress in Cairo following his unanimous election as NDP leader -- live in a linkup of Cairo transmitters]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Brother and sister members of congress, and brother citizen: Before I speak, permit me to ask you to stand for a minute of mourning for the party's departed leader, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

Brother and sister members of the congress and brother citizens: With all loyalty, gratitude and love, our hearts turn to the soul of departed leader, Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, who founded the NDP in order for it to become a crucible in which to fuse the Egyptian people's struggle along the path of freedom, democracy and prosperity, a mirror to reflect their hopes and aspirations, a current gushing forth to express their continuous motion toward a better life, a platform to crystallize their belief in the most noble loyalty to the homeland, their cohesion around the sublime national interests and their commitment to a quiet objective dialogue devoid of whims, personal aims or fanaticism, and a firm solid base to protect the right of each citizen to defend his views and beliefs and protect his principles and sanctities.

From the depths of my heart, I convey to each of you my sincerest feelings of gratitude and appreciation for this confidence which you have bestowed on me by choosing me as the party's leader at this important historic juncture. It is a confidence which I am very proud of. It is also a great responsibility which all of us share on the basis of the principle of collective responsibility for the general national action. All of us are loyal sons of Egypt and soldiers who are faithful to its soil and heritage, watching over its defense and securing its rights and interests. Every vein beating in our body chants its dear name, and every drop of our blood owes its allegiance to its immortal soil and its unique civilization. Each dream toying with our imagination stems from our love for it and our preparedness to sacrifice our souls and hearts in order that it may live dignified, safe and lofty. There is nobody who is more worthy than our party to preserve these noble values and principles. The party is the school of modern patriotism. It has revived the struggle of Mustafa Kamil and Muhammad Farid and resurrected the genuine national values of the Egyptian people, the miracle maker who gave man his first accomplishment along the path of civilization and urbanism. The party is the formula we have accepted for collective action to realize the sublime interests of the homeland, which we place above the interests of us all and give top priority over everything else, because Egypt is the means and the aim, the hope and the expectation, the past, present and future.

If we renew at this congress the pledge and promise to devote ourselves to the service of the homeland and the safeguarding of the people's interests, and to rise to the level of historic responsibility and confront the fierce challenges with open minds, satisfied hearts and firm feet, then we fully realize that the road in the service of the people is continuous, serious work, which is characterized by sincerity and honesty, which rises above selfishness, personal interests and exploitation, and which keeps aggrandizement and the exploitation of power away and always seeks to be the first in expressing the masses aspirations, ambitions and demands, solving their problems in silence and submission and illuminating the road in front of coming generations. It is only thus that the eminent position the NDP enjoys among the ranks of the people will be established on an objective and firm foundation -- namely, the masses confidence in the party, their rallying around it, and their absolute desire that it be the channel through which they express their demands and issues and declare their insistence on achieving progress and continuing the development for their betterment.

Thus the party will be qualified to lead the national march, a qualification derived from a sacred popular mandate and not from the regime's authority and the exploitation of an ability to make decisions.

Our many experiments have taught us that the true test of the success of any political organization is its ability to move in among the masses and to concentrate the good elements that are capable of giving and prepared to pay the duty of the struggle without seeking to derive any personal profits or selfish gains. In other words, we must be an exemplary group, not a power organization. [applause]

Related to this is the fact that our political work is a national Pan-Arab work in the first place. We only agree on what is right. We do not adhere to a view unless we believe it is in our interest. We are not asking for blind loyalty from anyone. However, we meet and our will is united on the right path based on our view of the higher national interests, over which there is no conflict or argument. This will not prevent a diversified number of views on how to achieve them. Hence the various efforts will be a healthy phenomenon, indicating the vitality of political life, the safety of the social movement and the right progress toward the national goals.

We believe that the means for crystallizing national unanimity is by rational intellectual dialogue and by good competition among the various views -- free of renouncement, enmity or hatred, and no suppression of any person's right to embrace this or that view. There will be no dictating of view no terrorism of thought and idea, no lies and no defamation of others' rights. Competing views will be within the framework of reciprocal preparedness, yielding to what is right, give and take, and ultimately adhering to what achieves the common higher interest, which is the real touchstone for sincerely obeying God and serving the homeland.

It is unwise for any person to believe that work for reform can take the form of sudden leaps or indiscriminate changes, or for some to believe that the peoples' history stops at specific events or that time turns backward. Any reform must stem from the base that history is a continuous movement toward the future, an unceasing development and that its wheel turns forward. Egypt today must be stronger and more glorious than before. Efforts must be unceasing to render Egypt's future more glorious and greater than its present. The peoples' achievements are not realized by turning to the past or bemoaning what has passed, but by marching forward with a vision of the past and of the future and a sincere determination for development and progress. Nobody should occupy himself with his personal problems or seek to divert the attention to peripheral issues unrelated to the people's real interests in any way. Nobody should forget that public work is first of all based on the sense of responsibility, good judgment of priorities, choosing the appropriate time for achieving every goal or taking any step, or making any decision.

Brothers and sisters, members of the congress, we must be frank with ourselves. In the coming years we have before us hard work and a huge burden that would move mountains. However, we have no other option because the big human test in today's world is the ability to provide a better life for every citizen and to achieve higher degrees of economic and social development in its comprehensive meaning.

We must not forget that we are coming closer to the beginning of the 21st Century, which will undoubtedly witness a new revolution in technology and science that will make the Industrial Revolution through which we have lived since the 19th Century appear meager by comparison.

Egypt cannot stay behind or be satisfied with what it has achieved because its position is in front and its natural role an example to Third World countries which want to absorb the era's conflicts without losing a civilized balance or a distinguished cultural identity.

Therefore, the efforts we are exerting together to achieve development and progress must be based on a clear cultural concept stemming from Egypt's history and its people's heritage. We must never forget that the Egyptian people are an original Arab and African people who believe in God and in his teachings, adhere to their spiritual values, and are linked through interests and feelings with the Third World's peoples who are struggling to establish a new world in which justice, fraternity and peace will reign and in which exploitation, domination and control will disappear.

Thus, we must realize that our affiliation with the nonaligned group is a choice that is consistent with our political creed, national interests, and cultural and ideological identity.

Brother citizens: It is natural that the economic question should be our primary interest at this delicate stage because it preoccupies the people's interest and thinking and determines our ability to ensure the present and the future for the coming generations of Egypt's sons. I am concerned with tackling these important issues with a method consistent with their gravity, our course in national action, and the principle on which we have agreed. This principle is that the building of Egypt in the stage of peace is a national duty in which we all participate, without any difference between ruler and ruled, or between supporters and opponents. We are all in the same boat, and everyone is interested in what is going on in Egypt and in what affects its present and future.

Raising economic issues was not motivated by the mere desire for change. I have assessed that we have passed through successive stages in handling these issues and, thus, have had rich experiences. We have also made tangible achievements in the domains of industrialization and the application of modern production methods. It has therefore become necessary to study our economic policy and objectively assess the outcome of past stages and the results of policies that we have pursued with the aim of reaching a perfect method for handling economic issues now and in the future. We are about to draw up a new 5-year plan that must be based on a strong foundation and on a course determined by a national consensus. This course makes it incumbent upon us to confront our problems realistically and honestly, without concealing the facts from the masses, giving accurate statements and information, refraining from lavish promises, and acting to strengthen the confidence of the masses in the official bodies and establishments and to consolidate their faith so that when the government says something, it will say the truth; and, when it promises something, it will fulfill it. [applause]

On the basis of this, I have called on a group of economists, who are well-known for their competence and experience, to study the various aspects of the Egyptian economy and to participate with the government in drawing up a sound strategy for development and firm guidelines for an economic policy that will ensure stability and continuity, avoid contradictory decisions, and reconcile the need to tackle the urgent problems with the need to take interest in the issues relevant to economics in the long run. These experts, in coordination and cooperation with the ministers concerned and benefitting from the research and studies made by the concerned establishments, the foremost of which are the specialized national councils, have made long strides in their study.

The phenomenon that prompted us to be satisfied and hopeful is that many citizens have taken the initiative of sending valuable views and proposals on how to handle the economic problems. These ideas have been referred to the consultative committee so that it can benefit from them and take them into consideration.

The economic conference will begin work on 13 February to expand the base of discussions and debate and to have a larger number of experts, in various economic domains, participate in the conference so that the eventual result will represent a national consensus. Because economic issues are delicate and complicated, it is natural that we provide sufficient time and a sound atmosphere for these studies so as to ensure careful discussions and exchange of views. I also deemed it fit that the constitutional establishments and political parties participate in this conference through their specialized experts.

It pleases me to state that the party was the first to initiate a study of the basic issues which preoccupy the masses. It formed a committee of experts to prepare a comprehensive report on these problems and ways of dealing with them. It is thus that the interaction between people and institutions, which express their suffering, hopes and aspirations, is consolidated.

Without preceding the events or confiscating the right of the experts to formulate opinions and ideas in complete freedom and objectivity and without restrictions, I would like to submit to you some of the main lines which govern our action in this regard:

1. The intention is not to prepare academic and theoretical studies. This is not the venue for such studies. Our ultimate aim is to prepare an integrated and practical plan stemming from our reality and special circumstances and from our special priorities at this stage.

2. Stability and continuity constitute the most important features of the new plan. There will be no sudden changes or haphazard jolts, rather a calculated gradual motion to achieve maximum averages of development and prosperity.

3. The general rule is that any reform of economic policy must realize a tangible addition which will be built on what is actually existing and which does not detract from what has been accomplished. For example, it is necessary to maintain the principle of the open-door policy and direct it in a way that will guarantee for us the attraction of Arab and foreign capital for investment in productive fields that will benefit the broad base of the sons of Egypt and that permit us to absorb the most modern methods and technology without leading to the aggravation of the consumer phenomenon [adh-dhahirah al-istihlakiyah].

4. The government alone cannot work miracles or undertake to fulfill all development requirements. There must be a real popular participation, because the efforts required to surge forth to the beginning of a new stage is beyond the capacities of government machinery and requires the participation of every Egyptian who looks forward to serving this redeemed homeland.

5. The essence of any economic reform is increasing production, raising the level of savings, limiting imports and consumption, increasing job opportunities and linking wages to production. These reforms might require great sacrifices; we will not hesitate to make these sacrifices so long as we believe in the seriousness of this great action and that all of us are equal in it, having the same rights and the same duties.

6. Rational economic policy must have a clear social concept because the philosophy governing our building of new Egypt is that Egypt belongs to all its sons. Therefore, it is not permissible that its benefits should be confined to a special minority or that the toiling factions should assume heavy burdens beyond their ability. [applause]

7. It is the duty of the specialized experts to formulate the various alternatives which will lead to the realization of the national aims. The political leadership and the legitimate constitutional institutions have the right to choose from among these alternatives on the basis of their assessment of the homeland's sublime interests and their view of what is good for the overwhelming majority of the struggling Egyptian people.

8. It is not right that the impact of existing problems should divert us from medium- and long-term comprehensive planning for development because the road of economic reform is long and economic problems cannot be solved overnight, but require a consistent policy that will bear fruit over the years during which the results will be achieved in a gradual and balanced way.

When the congress and the followup meetings complete the preparation of the recommendations related to the development strategy for the next 5 years and the course which the economic policy will follow in the next fiscal year, these recommendations will be presented to the People's Assembly for their decision. The Cabinet will then be charged with implementing these resolutions. It will make sure that the aims of development are realized in steady steps. The Cabinet has the necessary expertise, efficiency and leadership, which is capable of giving a strong push to national action.

Brothers and sisters, members of the congress: In the foreign field, we follow a consistent line that guarantees Egypt's national security and protects our vital interests and that stems from the principle of friendship and cooperation with all peoples who express a readiness to extend bridges of understanding. We deal with all states with an open heart and without complexes or sensitivities so long as they are ready to respect our independence, independent will and our right to choose that which achieves our interests and agrees with our principles, foremost of which are the philosophy of nonalignment, rejection of subservience, rejection of polarization and faith that the circles with which our strategic interests are primarily linked are the Arab, Islamic and African circles, even though this does not preclude the establishment of close relations with the European, American and other states in the various fields.

We welcome the decision of the four European states to participate in the formation of the multinational force as a contribution on their part to strengthen the edifice of peace, which is our first obligation and our way to achieve prosperity and stability. Peace is the free choice of our noble people, who realize with their unique historic awareness that the greatest challenge facing man is building and construction. We will continue building peace with all our strength and determination and will work to expand its horizons until its spreads its good effects on all the peoples of the region, above all the fraternal Palestinian people whose right for self-determination and free choice we support and whose legitimate struggle we also support.

In a few days I will pay a visit to the United States and some important European states. This visit will be a constant labor for the sake of Egypt and its noble people. May God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

AL-AKHBAR INTERVIEWS MUBARAK ON DOMESTIC PLANS

PM270925 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Jan 82 pp 1, 3, 4, 5

[Musa Sabri interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on 23 January, presumably in Cairo: "Husni Mubarak Talks to AL-AKHBAR: No Amendment of the Constitution, No Amendment of the Parties Law, No Nationalization, and No Custodianship"]

[Text] I said to President Husni Mubarak: Now that you have been in charge almost 4 months, how do you see your responsibility?

He answered without expecting me to carry on with the question. He said: The responsibility is huge and difficult. It will never be easy. It requires very great efforts. We have foreign issues, foremost among them the matter of the full withdrawal. We have all heard about the attempts to blemish the picture of the final withdrawal. Some people are asking what will happen after 25 April. And there is all this uproar. We also have economic problems and problems of the day to day life of the masses, the vast majority of the people. We need versatility. I say and repeat that you cannot clap with one hand. I will not work alone. Anybody with experience and ideas must come forward to work with me.

Allow me to be frank and to say what I feel. Regrettably, I see some people trying to pull us back. I ask: If we go backward, how are we to advance. Is preoccupation with the past in the interest of the people? Of course not.

I tell everyone that I need the help of every single human being in this country so that we can raise the standard of living and give every hard worker a decent life. This will never happen unless everyone contributes by offering ideas, working hard, cooperating and looking to the future. It is not an easy task. Everyone must cooperate. We should all look at the positive aspects of the past in order to proceed and advance, but it is useless for anyone to just dwell on the negative aspects of the past. We should learn lessons from negative experiences, but we must not spend our lives just talking about the past. Our discussions should focus on good, positive development and progress toward the future. It is regrettable, detrimental and futile to go backward. It cannot benefit the vast majority of the people.

He then wondered, in his simple style: Is our aim to stand still? This is inconceivable. Help us to go forward in order not to open the wounds of the past.

I said: Perhaps those who talk about the past believe that if we are to go forward, we must analyze the mistakes of the past in order to avoid them in the future. This is one view and argument. Is Your Excellency perhaps talking about what some people are writing in the press?

Husni Mubarak said, with more enthusiasm, yes. Talking about past mistakes is nothing new. We all know the mistakes. Let these mistakes be a lesson to us; but are we to cling to the past on every single matter? Tell us how to go forward. Help us. One individual cannot think about everything and do everything. Otherwise there would be no need for a state, government, government institutions or experts. All, without exception, are requested to cooperate for the future.

I said: Do you find the time each morning to read views and comment expressed in the press?

He answered: I read most of what is published. However, when I see them turning to the past I tend, may I say, not to continue. It is understandable to see a scientific and objective analysis of something that happened in the past -- a fair, scientific and objective analysis sheds light on the road to the future. However, it should not be confined to just talk about past ills. Well, what then? The country wants reform. It wants solutions. It wants landmarks on the road to a better future. I sometimes read lines containing pointers to the future but, permit me to say, some lines contain ambiguous words or ideas that cannot be implemented.

I said: But, Mr President, you have met many writers and chief editors and discussed these matters with them.

He said: Yes, I have met many, and we have discussed these ideas. The situation is better now. Some were convinced and took the road to the future: but some others still insist that it is necessary to return to the past. I assure you that talk about the past might attract some readers for a while, but people soon tire of this method. The people want solutions to their problems, and they want to be reassured about the future.

Then, laughing, President Mubarak said: Forget about a writer saying that he received 1,000 letters and many telephone calls. We know all this by heart. I do not want to say that it is all a fabrication, but it indicates that the writer needs to show that the readers support him. I do not mean to undermine or hurt anybody's feelings. I respect what is said. I respect every writer regardless of views, but I ask that we cooperate for a better future to ease the masses' burdens.

Then, laughing again, he said: Well, I can say that I have received 100,000 cables and had 200,000 telephone calls, and that the people want this and that.

Then the smile vanished, and he said firmly: Let us be serious, objective and realistic. Egypt needs serious studies and objective articles that guide.

I said: Mr President, what in your opinion are the positive aspects of the past from which we can proceed?

The president said: There are numerous major positive aspects. Without them we would not have been able to continue our development.

I said: Do you, for example, mean the peace issue?

He said: Of course, peace is one of the biggest achievements, and we will proceed on the road of peace. Full withdrawal will be completed on 25 April. On the question of peace there will be absolutely no concessions. I am really surprised by those who are now asking: What will happen after 25 April? I tell them that we are a country of deep-rooted principles, a country that honors its word and honors its signature. Our policy after 25 April will be the same as our policy before 25 April. This is a commitment and a principle. Peace is a national objective sought with a collective will.

I said: Those who ask what happens after 25 April are perhaps talking about domestic affairs. You have met opposition leaders and they have asked to publish opposition papers. Perhaps people expect internal changes in this domain.

He said: Yes, I have met the opposition leaders. I have had talks with Eng Ibrahim Shukri, Mustafa Murad and Khalid Muhyi ad-Din. They are all Egyptians before being opposition leaders. It is in Egypt's interest that the opposition be objective, seeking to serve higher interests and eschewing narrowminded and selfish views. I have also met independent politicians. I say that we all -- ruling party and opposition parties -- should discuss national issues. We have several problems. The economic program is the main one, and it is currently under discussion with the participation of the country's top economists and experts from the National Democratic Party and the opposition parties. We want to arrive at a new concept and proceed from there. Can we change our economic course for the better, and how? How can we develop the open-door policy in the field of production. We will not go back to a policy of closed doors. This is out of the question.

I said: But, notably, the economic conference has been postponed. I know that you are holding unannounced meetings with economists.

He said: I do not want propaganda. What is important is making decisions. The economic decisions will not suddenly emerge from under the table. Everything will be discussed and will be made public.

Soon I will meet the members of the economic conference. I told the members I have already met that I am no economist, but we must agree that there is a close link between economics and politics. The economists have various views. I want them to come up with a new concept that will fulfill the seven requests that I have announced.

The economists will not be able to find solutions in 24 hours. It will take time, because the economic problem is difficult and cannot be solved overnight. It takes a plan of action for years to come. Here we must scrutinize without being in a hurry. The economists have many ideas which in numerous cases do not agree.

I said: The people say: If the politicians agree, the economists never agree.

He said: It is natural for views to disagree. But when I invite economic experts from all the parties to study the economic situation with nonparty experts, I ask them in the end to come to a decision for the sake of Egypt.

I said: But did Your Excellency, through the unannounced meetings you had with the economists, feel optimistic about laying down an economic policy that would actually alleviate the burden on the masses?

He said: I have not yet studied any specific results.

I said: I don't mean specific results but the trend toward a solution.

He said: As I told you, the economic problem cannot be solved overnight. What is important is that we should begin. However, I believe we will achieve a sound economic policy.

I said: Many questions are being raised about subsidies.

He said: Subsidies for the toiling classes will not be touched. Discussions are being held to find the best way for subsidies to reach those who deserve them. We will not discontinue subsidies nor will we be able to easily determine who actually deserves a subsidy. The matter is difficult and takes a long time. We need to pursue a 5-year or 10-year policy to be able to streamline the question of subsidies. The question is unwieldy and difficult. It is enough to know that we import 70 percent of our food from abroad.

The president then asked me: I will give you one example that shows the difficulty of the situation. Take lentils, for example. Do you know how many tons of lentils we produce?

I said: I don't know.

He said: If I recall rightly, we produce less than 10,000 tons while we import 100,000 tons. This is only one item we import almost entirely. What is the solution? Consumption in the coming years will increase. How can we continue and what is the alternative? In my talk with you, I will not discuss all the details since all this will be discussed by the economists. But economy today is political economy. We will not discontinue subsidies. If we remove the subsidies, how will the people eat? How will the poor and simple people live? How can the poor clothe themselves?

I said: I understand from your talk about liberalizing production that we must raise local production to a level sufficient to meet consumption.

He said: That is what I am hoping for, although the economists disagree among themselves on defining what is production and what is consumption, for example, the question of producing macaroni. Is it production or consumption? They said it is productive because the people need macaroni. Well, what about carbonated drinks, which the people need as well? This brings in revenue of about 20 million pounds, which goes to the government treasury. Do I consider it production or consumption? Many studies have been conducted. We will open the economic conference on 13 February, God willing, and I hope that we will be able to reach solutions.

I also hope that the public will understand that the problem will not be solved in a year or two. Every country has an economic problem. I refuse to tell the people to tighten their belts for 5 years until we solve the economic problem. No, that is impossible. The solution must be gradual and compatible with the people's capacity to endure. It must be carried out in a manner that will not exhaust the great majority.

I said: Mr President, it is true that you are dealing with the number one problem, which is the economic problem. But there is another problem which is as important as the livelihood problem.

He said: Yes I know -- the housing problem.

I said: Yes, I mean housing for the young who want to marry, for those who live in houses that are about to collapse, and for those whose houses have collapsed and who now live in mosques and graveyards. Why don't we concentrate on providing one-room apartments for the young who want to marry?

He said: One room is not enough. It was tried and it failed. Our custom and tradition require housing in two rooms at least.

I said: So be it. My contacts with the young people in the AKHBAR AL-YAWM press establishment prove to me the gravity of the problem. Why is it not being given priority?

He said: I am giving this problem equal importance. I have held many meetings in this connection, but this too is linked to the economic problem. Why? Because companies do not build small houses. We must subsidize them with funds. Building costs have increased and the investment companies avoid this type of housing. It is the state that builds and bears the expense. There will be studies in the economic plan related to this subject.

I said: What I have heard from the young people is a reasonable and modest demand. They say: We are in no great hurry. We don't want an apartment this month. It would be enough to tell the young man that he will have an apartment in 3 or 5 years. This would reassure the young man and allow him to prepare to meet the expenses within the limits of his resources.

President Husni Mubarak said: The young people are right in this and I intend to follow this course. I recently held some meetings and I gave instructions to carry out a comprehensive study on the housing problem. But, as you can see, I can hardly cope. There is the external problem, the economic problem and scores of daily problems. The day has become very short for me although I start work at seven in the morning. But, just as we are going to have a comprehensive economic plan, we will have a comprehensive housing plan. But I don't want to talk too much or give too many promises.

I said: Nobody expects the housing problem to be solved in 1 year or 5 years, but it is expected that you will convene a housing conference just like the economic conference.

He said: I am actually preparing for such a conference; this will be as soon as progress is made on the work for an economic conference. The primary target will be to provide housing for the middle and low-income classes.

I said: All this is linked to another subject.

He said: Yes, I know. You mean to say discipline and the fight against neglect.

I said: Yes, and my question is: Does Your Excellency believe that discipline and the combating of neglect are progressing along the right road, as you wish?

He said: No, of course not as I wish and as every sincere Egyptian citizen wishes. But at the same time, I appreciate that this cannot be achieved overnight. We and all the leadership must set a good example. All the people must cooperate in this regard. The example set by me was to do away with all the ostentatious things; it is also not to be lenient with any violation or neglect affecting the people's livelihood and interests. I don't want to exaggerate things here. A few days ago the American NBC television correspondent asked me about combating corruption. I said: Yes, we do have corruption, but I can assure you that it is less than the corruption in the major powers or in other states. There is tremendous corruption in the big countries, but it does not show. Any instance of corruption in our country is magnified because we are a small and developing country and everybody talks about it. But what matters is that there should be no leniency with any deviation, regardless of its scale.

I said: Has Your Excellency received complaints about neglect and deviation?

He said: I have and I have referred them all for investigation. Furthermore, I don't wait until I receive a complaint. I read in the papers about the delivery of rotten tomatoes and asked for an immediate investigation. It transpired that what AL-AKHBAR published in this regard was true. I gave orders that there should be no dealings with any supplier delivering bad food of any kind -- absolutely no dealings with him.

I said: But have investigations been carried out with this supplier and other suppliers like him?

He said: Yes, of course.

I said: I mean judicial and not just administrative investigation.

He said: Of course, we all know about the long procedures of investigations and the excuses given. So the first move is to blacklist the offender once an administrative investigation has been carried out. I have received many complaints from those blacklisted, but I have paid no attention to them. I have no sympathy and will have no sympathy with those who deal in poison when dealing with the people's food. Making an example of one supplier will certainly make the rest realize that there is no leniency.

I said: I have heard many stories about your setting a good example for your relatives.

He said: Any relative of mine is just like any other citizen.

I said: But I have heard specific stories. I have heard that a relative of yours came and asked you to intervene with a certain governor regarding a certain problem. You refused to do so and immediately contacted the governor and told him that he immediately would lose his job if he took the question of relationship into consideration in this matter.

He said: Who told you that story? I did not tell it.

I said: I heard it. Is it true.

He said: In fact, it happened exactly as you said. My principle is that I have 43 million relatives; they are members of the Egyptian people. It also happened that a relative of mine went to a company head and asked for a job. He mentioned to the head of the company that he was a relative of mine. I immediately contacted the head of the company and told him: If you appoint this person, then you will have to submit your resignation immediately.

I said: What if your relative was right?

He said: That is nonsense. Appointment in any job must be according to a just system and conditions; a competition, for example. There must be a system. I will not accept arbitrary decisions.

I said: If we say that this discipline in behavior is a characteristic of your personality, there are many questions about your innermost personality.

He said: What do you mean?

I said: I have read scores of articles, particularly in the foreign press, trying to analyze your personality and to delve into its depths. Is Husni Mubarak a Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir type or an As-Sadat type? What does he intend to do in the future?

He said: Let them write.

I said: But it is also the Egyptian people's right to know about all aspects of your thinking and about what influences that thinking. You are the number one responsible person in Egypt. What would you say if I asked you: Who is Husni Mubarak?

President Mubarak very simply replied: Husni Mubarak is right here sitting in front of you.

We both laughed and I repeated my question: Your Excellency served 6 full years as vice president. You shouldered great responsibilities; you supervised the Cabinet work and you went abroad on extremely important visits to various world capitals. What ammunition did this experience give you in forming your general policies?

He said: I will tell you one thing: At the time of the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, I was not in a major official post. I was an officer -- air force chief of staff. I was a citizen living in that era; I had friends and we had our own views. There is no doubt that the era of Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's rule had many positive aspects and positive transformations and changes. Anyone who denied that would be denying these great positive achievements. But it also had its negative aspects; every rule in the world has its negative aspects. Every leader in the world throughout history had negative aspects, however great his reputation may have been. We must not be unfair. Every person has his positive side and negative side, even with his family and children. We are human. Positive achievements make up the history of Egypt.

I said: 'Abd an-Nasir's era passed.

He said: 'Abd an-Nasir's era passed and then came President as-Sadat. I lived close to him. President as-Sadat had many positive aspects which nobody could deny and which should not be detracted from. But -- I do not know why we are so -- sometimes we all lose our tempers at once and want to tear one another apart. Then the world laughs at us. Positive achievements are Egypt's history. It is strange that we should hear things about the two eras -- the 'Abd an-Nasir era and the As-Sadat era -- as if they had nothing but negative elements. This is strange. Unfortunately, people know the true history only after long years. I am in office and I will have my positive and negative sides because I am human. I work and I err and I would like to hear from anyone who can rectify my errors.

I said: This, Mr President, is logical and reasonable. But my question is: After your experience in public service and after destiny decreed that you should assume supreme responsibility, what do you have in your mind, on the basis of your practical experience, in the matter of the basic lines of general policy by which we are to proceed?

Husni Mubarak said: The basic line of internal policy that I have in mind is the interest of the broad base of this people. This is the basic line. We are a poor state. We exaggerate in calling ourselves a developing country. In fact, we are a poor country. We should not laugh at ourselves and say that we are an advanced country. No, we are a backward country and we proceed from this reality to build and develop and become a state that does not import its food from abroad. Then it is our duty to see ourselves as we are, to diagnose our ailments as they really are and without self-deception. We should look for the remedy that we must use, and there is no need for us to set our sights on something that is too high to achieve. We should not compare ourselves to the United States, the richest and most powerful country in the world. I wish we were like the United States.

Where are the natural resources and where is the great advance? We must progress without deceiving ourselves with words. There should be a fair comparison between Egypt and the big countries. We should not take one portion of the United States and demand that we copy it in Egypt. If I had a teremendous industrial base like that of the United States and production enough to supply the world, then there could be a fair comparison. In which case, let democracy in Egypt be fully extended -- more so than in the United States. There would be no fear from the people. How many parties are there in the United States?

I said: Two big parties and some other insignificant parties which nobody hears about.

He said: In our country, which is exerting every effort to build itself, if we were to open the door to parties, we would find that we had 20 parties, every one of them wanting to take power. In the circumstances of such fighting, the victim would be the downtrodden Egyptian citizen who is looking for a dignified livelihood and suitable housing. Let us look realistically and honestly at our situation and our problems. The people at the bottom want somebody to give them food and a house in which to live.

I said: I understand from this, Mr President, that you want social democracy to go hand in hand with political democracy, without excess in either sphere.

He said: Yes, that is the principle. But this doesn't mean that I am restricting freedom of expression or that I am suppressing any opinion. You are a journalist and a chief editor. You know that no instructions are given to the press. But, under the freedom of the press, I demand that our writers, whom I greatly respect, should tackle the real problems of the masses. Ask the people with experience about the solutions. Help me; help the government; enlighten the people. Freedom doesn't mean magnifying wrongdoings; real freedom is to submit the facts and look for solutions.

I said: Press articles demand the amendment of the Constitution, the abolition of the press law and the amendment of the law on parties.

Interrupting me President Husni Mubarak said: I tell you sincerely that this is absolutely not our subject and we have no time to discuss such things. Internal problems demand solutions from us for the sake of the drowning and downtrodden citizen. If I wanted to distract the people from their basic problems, I would have encouraged the press to write about such subjects. There would be endless discussion and chaos. But I would like us all to pursue the practical and realistic course -- facing the problems of bread, housing, transport and a dignified livelihood for the Egyptian citizen. This is the interest of the country. Study it and go ahead in writing, criticizing and finding solutions.

I said: Do the opposition parties agree with you on maintaining the law on parties as it is? Aren't they in a hurry to publish party newspapers?

He said: I did not broach the question of the law on parties with the opposition and I am not prepared to do so. There is no interest in doing this now. A party should mean working for the interest of the masses and prosperity of the people. All parties are called upon to work honestly.

I said: But a party without a newspaper to express its views is of no value.

He said: The party newspapers will be published. The party leaders understand my viewpoint regarding the requirements of the present stage and are convinced by it. There is no disagreement with the party leaders over this. As long as our discussions seek to uphold the higher interest, which is the interest of the great majority, then everybody will understand because we are all Egyptians.

I said: But do you not notice, Mr President, that the National Democratic Party (NDP), the majority party, is nowadays in a lethargic state. Frankly, many people used to say that the party was a burden on Anwar as-Sadat's shoulders and even then was lethargic because it was the ruling party. Its activities in the political arena and among the masses is limited.

He said: I agree with you, but only to a certain extent. How long is the life of parties in our country?

I said: About 3 years.

He said: The life of parties is short. The NDP studies the basic problems and submits studied reports on them. Time must go by. Don't forget that we lived for a long time the experience of the Arab Socialist Union.

I said: But there must be progress.

He said: Of course, I agree with you on this. But we should not compare our parties with parties abroad that have been in existence for scores of years. I do not want only the NDP to progress but am also very keen, in the country's interest, for all opposition parties to progress, to pinpoint mistakes and to declare their views.

I said: Do I understand from this that there is a plan to develop action within the NDP?

He said: I hope so. I believe popular discussion of the economic plan will be a great beginning for all the parties to agree on the future economic course.

I said: It is difficult for the views of the parties to agree. Otherwise, there would be no parties. Parties mean differences of opinion.

He said: I agree with you but, in Egypt's interest, we must have a minimum of agreement.

I said: This is true, but, for example, we happen to have an ideological party with Marxist tendencies, opposed to our economic system.

He said: There is always a minimum of agreement, taking into consideration all economic and political trends. In the general interest, reason must prevail and, in the end, the minority should respect the opinion of the majority, so long as all views are submitted to the public and to the People's Assembly. If we make a mistake and the opposition draws our attention to it, if the masses are convinced that we did, in fact, make a mistake, and if we insist on it, then we lose the confidence of the masses. Public opinion and the objective press are the judges.

I said: Let us go back to the question of production. Egyptian workers abroad produce splendidly and waste no time, but it is generally observed that this is not the case at home.

He said: It may be because the wages are higher abroad.

I said: It is not just a question of wages. We provide incentives and give rewards, but when mistakes are made there is no punishment.

He said: Things have changed considerably since 1973, after the October War. We now have joint investment projects and Egyptian workers are making magnificent efforts there. The general order is now improving.

I said: What is the October spirit that you wish to see in the production sector?

He said: The October spirit means accurate planning and estimating, taking into consideration all kinds of surprise developments. It means rational thinking. This is the way to overcome all obstacles. We must always have determination and we must have the will to challenge and win. Egyptian workers have these qualities. An Egyptian worker can discern the secrets of a complex new machine without going back to the design drawing.

I have great faith in the Egyptian worker. If certain people continue to destroy everything, to discourage people and to damage morale, we will never advance. I hope the press will help in this vital field.

I said: But the success of any particular work also depends on the leadership, in the areas of both production and executive action. This includes the choice of ministers. How do you choose the ministers?

He said: It is not easy. I gather information about excellent qualifications.

I said: It is a difficult matter because party political practice in Egypt has not matured yet and has not produced names of people qualified to be ministers. Do you rely on reports?

He said: No, I don't rely on reports. I rely on my own practical approach. When I was vice president, I used to hear about qualifications all the time and I used to follow them up. It is not easy. It took 45 days to select the economic group ministers in the recent reshuffle. I relied on my study of the leaderships in the various positions and so did the prime minister. It is a difficult matter because many people are now turning down ministries because the salary is very low. We turned to those willing to sacrifice.

I said: I heard that you chose the industry minister yourself.

He said: This is true. I had been watching him and his method of work. I heard good things about him. His name was one of three submitted to me. I told the prime minister he was suitable for the post of industry minister.

I said: We now have a tradition. A minister does not know why he was chosen for the ministry nor does he know why he is removed from that post. Why are the reasons not given, especially when a minister is ousted?

He said: I think this tradition stems from our own nature. If a minister is wrong, it is better if he gets out. But this doesn't mean that he cannot be trusted or that he committed a crime. However, if we publicly talk about his mistakes, nobody will believe us and stories will be made up, turning his mistakes into a crime. This can be embarrassing to a man who served his country, who was unsuccessful but had good will. It can also be embarrassing to his family, his children. If there is reason to bring a minister who commits a crime to trial, then he should be brought to trial. The purpose of the Cabinet reshuffle was to get new qualifications. So there is no reason to spread rumors about those who have been left out. I have met the outgoing ministers. Everyone can be successful in a certain field. I thanked them for their contribution and wished them success.

I said: Mr President, am I to understand from all this that you feel reassured about the future?

He said: Yes, fully reassured. But, as I have already said, everyone must do his duty. I repeat that one hand cannot clap.

I said: What about foreign, Arab, Egyptian and joint investment?

He said: I believe that the prevalence of security encourages investment.

I said: Some people are saying that nobody knows the new president's inclinations. Some are saying that the president might resort to nationalization or custodianship.

He said: This is not true at all. I repeat: It is not true at all. There will be no nationalization and no custodianship. We will only apply the Constitution and the law. Those who talk about constitutional amendments are rumormongering. We are a stable country and we have a stable Constitution. If we open the door to constitutional amendments, every trend will seek an amendment of one article or another of the Constitution. There will be no end to it and there will be chaos. Some will say that the hidden reason for an amendment is to return to nationalization, custodianship or the one-party system. This is absolutely untrue. We are not contemplating amendment of the Constitution. Our preoccupation is with providing a decent life for the vast majority of the people and maintaining and consolidating security. The country's interests dictate it.

Amendment of the Constitution is just not in the cards at all. The present Constitution gives us freedoms and safeguards positive work for the whole country. So we must work before thinking about amending the Constitution. Talking about constitutional amendment now is like playing with fire.

It is a call for confusion and for false rumors. We have the priority of economic reform and of gradually easing the burdens of the hard-pressed people. So let all Egyptian efforts join to serve that end. I want complete stability in Egypt in the interest of the vast masses. I want a sound economy to attract capital. We should work hard and produce. We must move forward and in the right direction. I say frankly and openly that I will not preoccupy the people with the issue of constitutional amendment.

I said to President Husni Mubarak: How do you make your decisions?

He answered: By consulting the experts. If I am dealing with an economic, legal or social matter, for example, I go to people whom I know for sure to have excelled in their field of specialization. If I read about a piece of research in the press and find it useful, I seek the person responsible and discuss the matter with him. I consult more than one expert on any one subject.

I said: It is reported that the presidential advisory body has been abolished. Is this true?

The president said: Yes, this is true because in my opinion it is not a specialized body and most of its members are members of the specialized national councils anyway.

I said: But we are not benefiting from the specialized national councils. Offices are full of their reports, but nobody has used them.

He said: You are right, but I have begun to seek the help of the specialized national councils. We have sought their opinions on the economic issue. They have submitted a comprehensive report to me. I am convinced that these councils are useful because they have most of the expertise. We should organize our use of their work.

I said: Am I to understand from this that in your decisionmaking you do not rely on a fixed body of presidential advisers?

He said: Yes, I don't want to surround myself with any fixed or particular body. I will seek the advice of the experts and the specialized national councils on every subject. If I have a fixed body near me, it will give the impression that I am surrounded by a certain group. Advice cannot be monopolized by a limited number or a specific number of people.

I said: Is there no group that you consult secretly?

He said: There is not and there will never be. I will never surround myself with a permanent group of people. I will not have a second government around me, other than the official government. When I see that more than one person or more than one body upholds the same view without having met, I consider that view worthy of Cabinet discussion.

I said: It is clear from all this, Mr President, that you believe in free dialogue.

He said: All the way.

I said: Did you at times differ with President as-Sadat?

He said: Yes, I used to argue with him, tell him what I heard and give him my opinion of what I read about major issues.

I said: Were your discussions calm and normal?

He said: Yes.

I said: I have taken much of your time in talking about domestic affairs. Let us move on to Arab affairs. I have noticed that, although we have stopped all attacks against all Arab countries, some Arab radios and newspapers are still attacking us.

President Husni Mubarak said: Which ones?

I said: Some Paris-based Arabic papers, as well as Damascus radio and Baghdad radio. They attack us for no reason. I have read that some are wondering why the Egyptian people support Husni Mubarak and why they show such enthusiasm. Why should the hearts of the Egyptians be filled with hope when the regime is still the same, when the regime has not changed, when the name of Husni Mubarak has merely replaced the name of As-Sadat?

President Mubarak replied: I don't pay any attention to this. Those who say these things would still say them even if an angel ruled Egypt. Let those who want to attack us do as they like, but we will not involve ourselves in any altercations whatever. The Egyptian people will assess and appreciate a good son and they will judge their rulers. This is above all the responsibility of the Egyptian people. We know quite well who harbors good and who harbors evil for us. I sincerely wish everyone to be objective in his approach. However, I repeat that we have no time to waste on peripheral arguments of no benefit to the Arab nation.

I said: We have talked about the Egyptian press and partially about the Arab press, but we have not talked about Egyptian television and radio.

The president said: The truth is that I have no time to follow television broadcasts although I appreciate that television is an important information medium because it enters every home. My general observation, however, is that television is pursuing a sound course.

I said: Better than the press?

The president said: No, I don't mean it that way. I love the Egyptian press and respect the journalists, but I do hope that it will let reason and logic dictate what is published. Thank God there is no censorship. Nothing is prohibited. If I see any excesses, I contact the author and use persuasion. What more could the press want?

I said: Quite candidly, I say we want nothing.

The president said: All that I fear is excesses. It is wrong to go too far because going too far leads to adverse effects.

I said: When do you give your trust to someone, and when do you withhold it?

The president said: It is no easy matter for me to trust someone.

I said: So I have heard.

He said: Yes, because to do so I must test the person in question. Trust means that you have full confidence in someone, and that is why it takes a long time to build.

I said: And withholding it?

He said: If I discover that a person in whom I trusted has betrayed or abused my trust, I will face him and ask him frankly about what he has done. If it turns out that he was in the wrong, I will tell him: This time I will forget it, but if you abuse my confidence another time, it will be the end. In other words, I will tell him goodbye.

I said: I have heard that this was your method even when you were commander of the Air Force.

He said: This is always my way. I will never change it. I cannot change myself. I cannot change the way I live, the way I eat or the way I deal with people.

I said: That leaves the question of your trip to the United States and Europe. What are the motives of this trip?

He said: The truth of the matter is that U.S. President Reagan has invited me to visit the United States and meet him. Discussions with President Reagan will cover economic relations and, of course, the issue of peace.

I said: What is new in economic relations? As far as I know, our relations with the United States are good and we are getting reasonable aid.

The president said: Relations with the United States are good of course, but the economic issue calls for a new look.

I said: With a view to increasing aid?

He said: No, to ensure flexibility in the use of economic aid, to move forward more freely. U.S. economic aid is linked to certain specific projects. It happens sometimes that we cannot implement one of these projects. It takes a long time and numerous measures to shift the aid to another project. This holds up implementation. The aim is to put the economic aid to more use. An Egyptian economic delegation has left for the United States to hold preparatory discussions with the experts there.

I said: What about your visit to Europe?

He said: I have received invitations from Italy, France, West Germany and Britain. The European states are important as far as we are concerned. They are important as far as support for our causes is concerned. Our relations with them are good. I therefore feel that I should visit them.

I said: Have you met Reagan?

He said: Yes, we had a brief meeting.

I said: What are your impressions about that meeting, as far as his feelings toward Egypt and peace are concerned?

The president said: His feelings for Egypt and peace are good.

I said: You have, however, met Secretary of State Haig several times.

He said: Yes, I believe that Haig has a sense of responsibility. This is why I talk to him with complete frankness about everything. During my latest meeting with him I was extremely frank, and I will be so again when I receive him next Thursday.

I said: We thought that he might not return so soon. He has visited Egypt and then Israel and he knows the views of both sides. We expected the results to be discussed during Your Excellency's U.S. visit.

He said: So did I, but I have since received word from Mr Haig that he wants to come in order to put us completely in the picture after his visit to Israel. I welcome his visit, but I keep wondering what new element he can be bringing with him.

I said: Certain commentaries say that the United States is pressuring Egypt to reach a declaration of principles on the Palestinian autonomy before 25 April. Has Your Excellency felt such pressure?

He said: No, I have felt no pressure from anybody. We have nothing to make concessions about because the Palestine problem and the Palestinian lands belong to the Palestinians. As I said to one of the Americans: I cannot give the suit you are wearing to somebody else. He replied: If I agree, you can. I said, that is true. This "suit" belongs to the Palestinians, and they have the final say in the matter.

We received another proposal -- not from Haig -- that we should issue an incomplete declaration of principles. What does it mean, "incomplete," I asked. The answer was: To be completed later. Why should it be completed later, I asked. A declaration of principles is a declaration of complete principles. I do not understand how there can be incomplete principles. In fact, during one discussion someone wanted to portray this as a daring step. I told him: We have taken the most daring steps and we have no more daring steps to take. The peace initiative, Camp David, the peace treaty and the exchange of diplomatic representation -- all are daring steps. It is up to the others to take daring steps.

I told President Husni Mubarak: It appears that I must once again go back to internal problems, as I am interested in further discussion of the youth problem.

He said: Every world country has a youth problem: the United States, Italy, France and every country. The young people of Egypt need a good example to follow. They need a solution to the housing crisis.

I asked the president: You have two sons at university. What youth problems do they talk to you about?

The president said: Frankly I must tell you that they are busy studying, and my time is short. If they hear about something or read about some decisions in the press, they ask me for an explanation.

I said: But certainly, Your Excellency, you do sit down with the young people of your family?

He said: Yes, and my principal talk is about the housing problem. Therefore, God willing, we will shortly arrange to hold a conference on housing. I hope that every effort will be made to solve this problem. Believe me, the burdens are very heavy. I have not been able to live my life since the October War. I thought that after the war I would go back to lead a normal life. I am a modest man by nature and love to live a quiet family life. But President as-Sadat surprised me by choosing me as vice president, and then my destiny decreed that I become president.

I said: But even if the painful assassination incident had not taken place, President as-Sadat was insisting on stepping down and on your taking over the presidency.

President Husni Mubarak said: Believe me, I argued with President as-Sadat for a long time on this subject and I told him more than once: After you, I will not remain one day in any office of responsibility. I want to live my own life.

I said: But you probably now see your life in solving the problems of the masses and in achieving a dignified life for every citizen.

The president said: I would again say that one hand cannot clap. I want everybody to cooperate. I would say to the youth, to every young man in Egypt, you must sweat, you must make every effort you can, and you must help production in your country. There are some types of young people whom I admire and respect. For some time I have known a young engineer. He frankly told me that he goes to his official job in the government only twice a week. The rest of the week he spends at the sports club. The strange thing is that he complained that his wages are not enough to pay for his lunch at the club. I asked him in surprise: Why don't you take another job, since you have so much free time?

But I have known another young man who is also an engineer. He came to me and said that he had heard that a certain quarter had a porcelain job that needed to be done and that he would like to do this work. I admired this spirit and in fact helped him to get the job. He worked for 18 days and made 1,500 pounds. He did an excellent job. He took off his suit and wore white overalls and did his job the way it should be done. This was an excellent example which I liked and encouraged.

I call upon the youth to make their way through life through innovation, hard work and sweat. Minds can create types of work and look for work.

I told the president: What about the projects for giving farm land to young people. Some of the young people complain of many obstacles.

The president said: Yes, I know that the problems are many. The agricultural problem will be one of the problems to be discussed within the economic situation. One thing at a time. We must concentrate on a certain direction, and then on another direction. And thus the wheel of earnest work will turn.

I said to President Husni Mubarak: Perhaps, Mr President, I have taken a long time with my questions and so taken much of your time. But I have one more question.

The president said: I am listening, but you must promise that it will be the last question.

I said: Some people wonder: If we are suffering from an economic crisis and need every piaster, why the expenditure to arm the army?

Can we not direct these funds into projects, since we are coming to peace?

The president said: We are not preparing an army to attack anybody. The Egyptian Armed Forces exist to protect Egypt against any designs. We live in an area haunted by designs. If we do not have a strong army capable of repelling such designs when they are pressed, we will have no entity. Without a strong and capable army no citizen will be reassured about his life. The army is a school as well. What is the use of an army without sophisticated weapons. What use is it? It is strength that protects the political decision which is taken in the interest of the people. The lasting political decision is to protect our country against external designs. This is what responsibility dictates that we provide.

MUBARAK, NUMAYRI CONFER, HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

NC271342 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Aswan, 27 Jan (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in the Aswan airport resthouse this morning.

The meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Numayri began at 1045 with Sudanese Vice President Maj Gen 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib attending. The meeting was held at the request of President Husni Mubarak to study Sudan's economic and military needs before President Mubarak's forthcoming tour to the United States and a number of European countries, which begins this coming Saturday.

President Husni Mubarak received President Numayri upon President Numayri's arrival in Aswan airport from Khartoum.

The Sudanese president was also received by a number of senior military and civilian state officials.

President Numayri had left Khartoum for Aswan earlier today. He was seen off at the airport by Vice President Abel Alier and Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif.

President Husni Mubarak had left Cairo at 1000 today for Aswan to meet with President Ja'far Numayri upon the latter's arrival there.

The Sudanese president is scheduled to return to Khartoum after concluding his current talks with President Husni Mubarak.

Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri left Aswan at 1450 for Khartoum after concluding his talks with President Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak left Aswan for Cairo after seeing President Numayri off.

President Husni Mubarak and President Ja'far Numayri held a press conference at the airport lounge at the end of a 3 and 1/2-hour meeting, including a working luncheon. President Mubarak delivered a speech to open the press conference. He said: I welcome his Excellency President Ja'far Numayri, who is a dear brother and friend of Egypt. I speak on behalf of Egypt. He is the president of the fraternal Sudanese people, with whom we have strong and everlasting ties.

His excellency added: Just as in the time of the late president, we have been accustomed to exchanging views with President Numayri to learn his views on the world and international issues.

President Mubarak said: Since President Numayri's previous visit to Aswan, we have exchanged personal messages to learn his views on all issues. This time before my trip to a number of European states and to the United States, we agreed to meet and exchange views on all these issues, including the Middle East and other issues of interest to the two countries.

President Ja'far Numayri also made a statement, in which he said: Since my first meeting with President Mubarak in Aswan we have had continuous contacts -- through our personal envoys who carried messages. All these are forms of contacts, cooperation and coordination on matters of interest to the two countries.

President Numayri said: We discussed general issues of interest to the two countries, and we found that we are still within the framework we agreed upon and have not deviated from our aims. In fact, we are drawing closer and closer.

He added: We feel that there has been success and achievement of overall objectives on major aims.

He went on: President Husni Mubarak will embark on a very important trip very soon. During the trip he will meet with many of our friends with the aim of securing the support we want to build our homelands. The meeting was held for this reason.

Presidents Mubarak and Numayri then replied to correspondents' questions. In reply to a question on the stability of the situation in Sudan, President Numayri said: I think my presence here with you and my meeting with President Mubarak in Aswan is decisive proof that we are completely confident and assured about security and stability in Sudan.

He added: The decision to relieve the vice president, minister of defense and the commander in chief of the armed forces -- all these positions are held by one person -- and about 22 officers was made because in Sudan we have a sort of continuous change and reorganization. We do that with people who have nothing new to contribute to national action or national building. Work is open to all the people of Sudan.

Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri said: According to law, senior officers are not allowed to stay in their positions for more than 2 or 3 years. They are then retired to give a chance to their brothers who have achieved a certain level of qualification.

He added: Perhaps there has been some confusion in this regard because this decision was made simultaneously with the price increases for some foods and with the school strikes.

He went on: The strikes in the schools, so far as we are concerned, are a victory, because schools have been established in all the country -- in every village and even in Jazirat Aba, which we considered the center of sectarianism for scores of years, there is a high school. Let the students go on strike. There is a new awareness in Sudan. There are parties. We do not talk about democracy, because it is considered a legitimate right in Sudan. Therefore, I am not afraid or alarmed because of such actions, which raise the standing of the homeland.

President Numayri said: I would like the fraternal Egyptian people to feel reassured that Sudan's security is in a good position and that we are eager and are always working to maintain it.

Replying to a question as to whether the discussions dealt with increasing military aid to Sudan on the occasion of President Mubarak's tour, President Numayri said: We work according to a special program for arming the armed forces. We do not at any time ask for military aid unless we have a plan. There is a plan with the United States which we have begun to implement. It is still current.

He added: I would like to emphasize to you that the first consignment of the aid program has not been delivered by the United States to Sudan.

He went on to say: Planning for a great number of years is the successful scientific thing to do. We always draw up a 5 or 6-year plan for the army so as to know what we want, how to train the people and what the aims are within the plan's framework.

President Numayri said: Within the framework of this plan, cooperation is taking place between us and the United States, many friendly countries and Egypt as well. The weapons we are requesting are consistent with the programs and plans.

Asked about the situation on the Sudanese-Chadian border, President Numayri said: The situation on Sudan's western border is somewhat stable. Since Libyan forces have withdrawn from this area, we have nothing to fear.

He went on: What is in Chad now are the Chadians themselves, and there is peace and stability. There is a force led by Hissein Habre which is opposed to the legitimate government. But this is inside Chad, and we have no clashes with the Chadian forces or with Hissein Habre's forces.

'ALI SAYS MUBARAK TOUR WILL STRENGTHEN EGYPT

NC271545 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has told a radio reporter that President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming tour of a number of European countries and the United States, which will begin this coming Saturday, acquires special significance because it is President Mubarak's first tour since assuming the presidential office. The tour will provide an opportunity for direct and serious work that will further bolster Egypt's relations with states on the tour, both in the field of constructive political dialogue and in economic, technical and technological relations.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that President Mubarak's tour comes at a time when the Egyptian domestic front has proved to be solid and cohesive. He added that the tour takes place amid heated international conditions in Europe, Asia and Africa. For this reason, views will be exchanged on these conditions.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that the talks will deal with the Middle East in light of the approaching final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and Egypt's desire to have the second part of the Camp David agreement implemented in a way that will realize the aspirations of the Palestinian people and the people of the area for the establishment of a comprehensive, lasting and just peace in the region.

'ALI DISCUSSES STATE VISIT WITH FRENCH, FRG ENVOYS

NC271452 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali held a meeting with the FRG ambassador in Cairo today. He also met with the French ambassador. During the meeting, developments in the Middle East and relations with France and the FRG were reviewed. The meetings also dealt with issues relevant to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit to the FRG and France in the course of his excellency's tour to a number of countries in Europe and the United States, which starts this coming Saturday with a visit to Italy.

President Mubarak will hold talks with the heads of state of Italy, France, FRG, Britain and with Pope John Paul and U.S. President Reagan on the developments in the Middle East and ways of boosting the autonomy talks and strengthening cooperation between Egypt and these countries in various field.

ECONOMIC ADVISERS TO DEPART FOR WASHINGTON

NC271512 Cairo MENA in English 1425 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA) -- Muhammad 'Abd al-Fattah Ibrahim, deputy premier for economic and financial affairs, will leave here on Thursday for the United States for preparations for the economic side of President Husni Mubarak's talks with U.S. officials during his upcoming visit to the U.S.

Ibrahim will hold consultations with officials of the American administration, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Fu'ad Hashim, who left here on Thursday on his way to Washington, will join these consultations.

Discussions of the ideal way of using the U.S. economic aid programme to Egypt amounting to about one billion dollars per year will be also completed.

Consultations with the World Bank and the IMF aim at fostering relations between Egypt and each of the two organisations.

'ALI, HAIG TO DISCUSS MIDEAST, AUTONOMY ISSUES

NC271608 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] President Husni Mubarak will recieve U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig tomorrow afternoon upon his arrival in Cairo. Haig and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will begin talks tomorrow evening and will resume them on Friday morning.

The Egyptian-U.S. talks will center on the developments in the situation in the Middle East and on overcoming the obstacles facing the autonomy negotiations, as well as on the bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States in the various fields.

Upon his arrival in Israel this afternoon, Alexander Haig said that during his quick visits to both Israel and Egypt, he will present the U.S. assessment of the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy. He added that Washington will do everything in its power to give momentum to the negotiations.

An official in the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary of state has pointed out that Haig does not have any specific proposals for submission to Egyptian and Israeli officials.

The U.S. secretary of state is scheduled to leave for Cairo tomorrow after concluding his visit to Israel.

FOREIGN MINISTER GREETS HAIG, STRESSES TIES

NC281320 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig this afternoon arrived in Cairo for a 1-day visit. He was met by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali made a speech in which he welcomed the U.S. secretary of state. He said: Mr Haig's efforts for peace in the Middle East are worthy of appreciation and support and our meeting today is a link in the chain of continuing consultations and joint efforts deployed to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace. These efforts have resulted in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, which will be implemented fully within the next few weeks. Thus, this treaty will lay the foundation for the continuation of the peace process and for the efforts which are being exerted to achieve a comprehensive peace, ensuring the interests of all the parties.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: Mr Haig's positive contribution to the efforts, which are aimed at achieving full autonomy for the Palestinians, will contribute to diminishing the differences at the autonomy talks. Furthermore, these efforts will create an appropriate atmosphere for attaining an amiable agreement which will lay the groundwork for a comprehensive, lasting and just peace in the area.

PROSECUTOR GENERAL RELEASES 42 DETAINEES

NC262234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2206 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA) -- Socialist Prosecutor General Counsellor 'Abd al-Qadir Ahmad 'Ali has issued a decision ending the detention of 42 [number as received] persons who are covered by Presidential Decree 493 of the year 1981.

Socialist Prosecutor Assistant Councelor Yusuf Darraz has stated that the decision ending the detention takes effect today.

Counselor Darraz announced the names of the persons who have been released. They include some Muslim and Christian clergymen.

The decision ending the detention covers the following 42 persons:

Hasan Ahmad 'Isa 'Shur, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Khatib, Jabir Rizq Muhammad Jabir al-Fuli, Muhammad Shams ad-Din ash-Shinnawi, Anba Aynus, whose name is Saddiq Labib Marqus, Sabri 'Aziz 'Ubayd, Samir Labib Qarisah, Radi Mansur Khalil, Rida 'Abd al-Hamid Jawdah, 'Isam Muhammad Abu 'Amirah, Ibrahim Hasan Hasan al-'Arabi, Muhammad al-Hami 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Jundi, Mahrus Sidarus Iskandar, Ibrahim Bushra Shinudah, Lashin 'Abdallah Shanab, nicknamed Lashin Abu Shanab, Ibrahim as-Sayyid Ibrahim Khayyush, 'Umar Ahmad Fathi 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Ayyat, Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd al-Fattah Badawi, Anba Yamwa, Anba Bashwa, priest Philips Rizq 'Abdallah, Dr Muhammad as-Sayyid Habib, Zayn al-'Abidin Muhammad Abu as-Su'ud, Tahir Tawfiq Abu al-Hamad, Tariq Muhammad Muhammad as-Sayyid at-Tabbakh, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd al-'Aziz Kishk, 'Adil Ibrahim Muhammad at-Turki, Yasir Tawiq 'Ali as-Sirri, Fathi Muhammad Ahmad al-Khatib, Muhammad Bayyud, priest Bishawi Lam'i 'Id, Maximus Mashraqi Gabriel, Nimr Jundi Sulayman, Rushdi Mikhayil as-Sis, Muhammad 'Utayfi Ahmad, nicknamed 'Abd al-Wahhab, Ahmad Muhammad 'Abd al-'Al, nicknamed Jamal, Dr Nabil Rasmi Biskarus Hanna, Muhammad Ahmad Farghali Ahmad, 'Ali 'Abd ar-Ra'uf 'Abd al-Ghani, nicknamed Rajab, Dr Mutawalli Yusuf Shalabi, nicknamed Ra'uf Shalabi, George Zakhari 'Abd ash-Shahid, Ahmad Husayn Nasr, archpriest Basilyus and archpriest Sadrak.

INTERVIEW WITH NPUG PARTY'S KHALID MUHYI AD-DIN

GF251125 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 24 Jan 82 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, Secretary General of Egypt's National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Following the death of the leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, religious groups in Egypt spread and their activity increased. How do you explain this phenomenon?

Muhyi ad-Din: I believe there are several factors that led to the spread of these religious groups. One is that following 'Abd an-Nasir's death the government and the Arab Socialist Union wanted to resist the growth of leftist thought among students. Therefore, they assisted these religious groups and armed them so they could oppose leftist trends. We know that in 1972, Muhammad 'Uthman Isma'il, Yusuf Makkawi and other members of the Arab Socialist Union's secretariat were supporting these groups in order to resist the nationalist, Nasirite and leftist trend in Egypt in general and in the universities in particular. After a while, these youths -- who had been fed religious thought -- began to become affected by the social situation and to direct their attacks against corruption. The source of corruption is not, of course, the left or the nationalist forces but the "government," and so they directed their first shots at the government.

[Question] Do you advocate a dialogue with these religious groups, which represent a political phenomenon?

Muhyi ad-Din: A phenomenon can never be treated by ignoring those who are responsible for it. Since the beginning of this century there has been an Egyptian political current whose political thought is inspired by religion. Ignoring this current leads to violence and calamities. The question is, how can we isolate this current from violence. The only way is through dialogues. Dialogue requires a liberal climate. Violence emerges when a liberal climate does not exist and society becomes weak.

[Question] President as-Sadat's assassination was a surprise to many people. What are the most important lessons of that incident?

Muhyi ad-Din: The incident was a surprise -- in itself and how it was carried out. However, the spread of violence in political life is not a surpirse. Following the arrests in September 1981, our party secretariat issued an analysis asserting that violence will prevail in political life. A crisis existed in all sectors of society. Nationalist forces were struggling against President as-Sadat's policies. This conflict ended with his death on 6 October.

Some people believe that Al-Islambuli was responsible for the assassination. No, it is true that assassination has been rejected as a political expression. However, what happened was an indication that the regime had failed. The regime could have created a favorable climate for a dialogue with the political forces, but it did not do so -- and the dialogue was with bombs and bullets.

In our view, As-Sadat's policies led to what happened on 6 October. We warned against the spread of violence, but no one listened to us. If many of Egypt's main policies are not reconsidered, it is possible that the crisis will re-emerge.

[Question] During President as-Sadat's rule you called for the unification of opposition forces into a single front to oppose the former regime's domestic and foreign policies. Do you believe present circumstances still require the formation of such a front?

Muyhi ad-Din: Action within fronts is part of the action of every progressive party. We believe that no single social force or political party is capable of bringing about changes in any country. Action within fronts is part and parcel of the party's program. Thus, when all political forces in Egypt opposed President as-Sadat's policies there existed a broad opposition front that was constantly growing. However, after 6 October, when President Husni Mubarak assumed his post, he began to pursue a new line and course. He called for some points that opened the way for the possibility of bringing about a change in Egyptian policy and for reviewing some issues.

This situation created new conditions for us that made it necessary to review the method of front action and ensure that such action continues. This issue was put before the National Progressive Unionist [Grouping] Party's [NPUG] Central Committee, which drew up a program for national salvation. Egypt is facing a crisis in all aspects of its political, economic and social life, particularly following the emergence and spread of violence in society. Therefore, we have drawn up a program for national salvation that can meet with a positive response from many forces, members of the ruling National Democratic Party and all political trends. Thus, the sphere of action will expand in order to save Egypt.

To implement this program we have laid down five party tasks, all of which are front tasks. The first is the exchange of views with all forces that are interested in putting an end to violence in society. The spread of this phenomenon is considered a threat to society, and by halting it we can return society to normal.

The second task is to forge an alliance with all forces that believe that restricting freedom and free speech in Egypt is the primary reason behind violence and its spread. Therefore, returning to democracy, abolishing all emergency laws, releasing detainees and reviewing laws that restricted political action are necessary not only for the freedom of citizens but also to safeguard the country's political and economic independence.

The third task is to oppose imperialist plots to drag Egypt into joining a strategy with one of the superpowers. It also involves opposing the attempt to obtain military facilities and to tie Egypt and the Egyptian armed forces to the U.S. program for the Middle East. Finally, it involves resisting U.S. military presence in the region and defending Egypt's true neutrality. This issue requires a greater mobilization of the political forces that have been provoked by the military relationship with the United States and the form of the U.S. presence in the region.

The fourth task is to establish sound Egyptian-Arab relations. The way to do this is that Egypt should not become involved in any agreement on autonomy that does not satisfy the Palestinian people, the restoration of the spirit of Arab solidarity and the opposition of repeated Israeli aggression against the Arab world -- such as the possibility of aggression against southern Lebanon or an attack on Syria.

All these issues [fifth task is not mentioned] meet with a wide-scale, positive response from major, influential forces. Despite all the propaganda, Arab feelings in Egypt have not ebbed but are still strong.

[Question] Have there been contacts to form this front?

Muhyi ad-Din: There have been steps in this direction. We undertake consultations before adopting any position on the new situation. The front needs broad action, because, in my opinion, the front in Egypt will be established among the masses. It is true that top-level contacts among the political leaders are important, but it is more important that the front is established among the masses. For instance, there is a front consisting of Egyptian laborers that is designed to confront any plot aimed at the public sector. No one is prepared to allow the pillar of Egyptian economy to be harmed. This front came into being during As-Sadat's rule. There is an alliance among all students and youths in Egypt to restore the students union. There is also an effort among Egyptian women to form a union to defend their rights. Peasants are also working to form their union. Making contacts with political leaders is important, but work among the masses must not be ignored. The platform for national salvation that we launched cannot be abandoned by the political powers in Egypt. This would not be in the national interest.

I visited all opposition leaders after they were released from prison, and we discussed the issue of the front. They want the new leadership to be given extra time until April.

[Question] Does your party intend to begin publishing its newspaper AL-AHALI?

Muhyi ad-Din: I believe that if the parties do not publish newspapers -- through which they express themselves -- dialogue in society will break down and there will be no parties or political life in Egypt. We have talked with President Husni Mubarak about publishing AL-AHALI again. The parties will begin publishing their papers when martial laws have been relaxed.

[Question] Some Arab political parties believe that the democratic changes President Husni Mubarak has instituted are mere transitional steps designed to contain the Egyptian opposition and that they will soon be abandoned. What do you think?

Muhyi ad-Din: I cannot speak for the opposition. I can speak for the NPUG. This party has a platform, and its structure will not allow it to be contained. It represents various political powers, and its resolutions are adopted democratically. Its leadership is elected and not named. It has held several organizational conferences, and it has influence in the provinces. The NPUG cannot make a decision without consulting the Central Committee, which represents all its views. Therefore, the matter of containing it is difficult.

Another point: If the regime retracts the democratic steps it has undertaken, then the regime will be the loser and not the opposition. This is because the opposition and the NPUG presented a new political line in response to the regime's new line in its relations with the parties and its politics and declared stands. The NPUG did not make any concessions in any basic stand. I do not believe that the opposition gave up its position. We have given the regime an opportunity. It has pledged to adopt a nonaligned policy and to keep Egypt away from the strategy of the superpowers. The regime has also stopped the media attacks against the Arab world, excluded the possibility of a war with Libya, announced that it will not use the Egyptian Army against any Arab country and called for reviewing many of the overture policies in addition to directing such policies to serve the people. Therefore, we must give the regime a chance, particularly as there are forces also in power. Besides, changing these previously mentioned matters cannot happen suddenly.

[Question] Can the Egyptian opposition play a role in developing relations between Egypt and the Arab world to reunite Arab ranks?

Muhyi ad-Din: There are two kinds of unification of Arab ranks. The first is unification of Arab ranks to achieve independence for the area and keep it away from imperialist and Zionist influences. The second is unification of Arab ranks on the side of the United States. The difference between the two goals is great. We, as members of the NPUG, are thinking of launching an initiative calling for a comprehensive solution. This would serve the independence of the area and the goals of liberation, assist progress and stability and set Egyptian-Western relations on the right track. The most important thing at this stage is ending the deterioration in Arab relations. Also, the Arab masses should not be passive. The weak point in the position as a whole is that relations among Arab governments improve and deteriorate while the Arab masses know nothing about what has happened. This is due to the fact that the Arab citizen does not have freedom of expression and cannot participate in decisionmaking. Therefore, it is important at this stage that a call be made for a conference -- which would include popular political powers -- to set a political strategy and define its struggle. What I realize is that national, progressive Arab powers have allowed the reactionary powers to assume the initiative in working for peace. This is a big mistake. We must present a genuine and realistic peace plan that resolved the Palestinian issue. We must inform the masses that even after a peace treaty with Israel is signed, the struggle will not stop.

[Question] But how will a call for such a conference be made?

Muhyi ad-Din: I believe that there should be contacts among Arab political powers so we can all think about how to prepare for a conference.

There are two currents in the Arab world. The first is known as the moderate current, and the other is the confrontation and steadfastness front. This latter current surrounds Israel with its military power. It includes the PLO and Syria as well as Iraq. The moderate current controls the money and petroleum and has relations with the United States. In my opinion, political forces in Egypt do not want to be involved in this classification. These powers must not be aligned with any of these camps. They must play a role in reuniting the Arabs in order to achieve independence in the region, arrive at a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, recognize the rights of the Palestinian people and help the Arab masses gain their rights.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER VIEWS ISLAM, EGYPT

GF211711 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 20 Jan 82 p 7

[Report on interview with 'Umar at-Talmasani, editor in chief of the Egyptian magazine AD-DA'WAH, granted to the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR -- date, place of interview not given; published in AR-RAYAH in agreement with AL-MUSAWWAR]

[Excerpts] 'Umar at-Talmasani said: "We have refused to become a party, because parties have a specific method of action. We have no program other than the book of God and the way of his messenger."

He added: "Any clash between the ruler and the people benefits only the enemies of the homeland. However, this does not mean that there were mistakes in the special organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, with which the state clashed during the 1940's."

Commenting on politics and religion, At-Talmasani said: "Religion does not know anything about politics, however, it organizes the life of the individual in all fields -- how to eat, marry, trade, govern and be governed and sleep. Religion organizes everything in life whether personal or public."

Concerning the situation in Iran, At-Talmasani said: "When Khomeyni declared the revolution we supported him despite the radical difference in faith between Shi'ites and Sunnis. We supported him because the people had been savagely wronged by their ruler. I thought that the massacres and serious situation in Iran were being exaggerated. However, those I trust fully have affirmed that what is published in the press is true. I don't approve of this. God's law is not being implemented in Iran. The violence taking place in Iran is not part of Islam. What is happening there does not please me in any way."

Commenting on recent developments in Egypt, At-Talmasani said: "The detentions in September were horrible. It was horrible to see human beings packed into small rooms without care or treatment. The situation is much different now. I know that aid, medicine, books and newspapers are being sent to the detainees. This is certainly a much better situation. When a person sees that President Husni Mubarak does good. one must say, 'May God increase the number of those who are like you and may he help you.' This is exactly what I told Husni Mubarak, by the way. The country is full of thinkers, party leaders and sect leaders. It would be good if the president met with them every month or two to discuss things with them. He would benefit from their opinions and, in turn, the entire country would benefit."

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES ISSUED

No 594

JN241640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA) -- An Iraqi military communique states that the known Iranian losses for yesterday evening and today amounted to 21 killed and 2 vehicles, 1 observation post and 5 stockpiles of hardware destroyed. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 594 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The results of the activities of our valiant armed forces in the operation sector yesterday evening and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Six killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
B. Five killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
C. Four killed in the Sumar area.
D. Two killed and three stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Shush area.
E. Two killed in the Mehran area.
F. Two killed in the Ahvaz area.
G. One vehicle, one observation post and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
H. One vehicle destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 21 killed and 2 vehicles, 1 observation post and 5 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

II. Our Losses: Two martyrs in all sectors.

No 595

JN251600 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA) -- Iraqi forces have killed 25 Iranians and destroyed 1 gun, 4 vehicles, 1 observation post and 5 stockpiles of hardware. This was stated in communique No 595, issued here this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on the results of military activities in operational sectors the past 24 hours. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The brave sons of our armed forces continue to pound and destroy the forces of the criminal Khomeyni clique in the operational sectors. The results of war activities for yesterday evening and today were as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Shush area. Our forces pounded it and forced it to flee, leaving behind 11 dead, 1 destroyed vehicle and 2 burned stockpiles of hardware.
B. A force from a forward unit raided the enemy positions in the Dezful area, clashed with it with all types of weapons and forced it to leave its positions. The enemy sustained seven dead in the same area.
C. Three killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
D. Two killed and one gun and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Nowsud area.

E. One killed and one observation post destroyed in the Mehran area.
F. One killed in the Sumar area.
G. Two vehicles and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
H. One vehicle destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 25 killed and 1 gun, 4 vehicles, 1 observation post and 5 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

II. Our losses: 10 martyrs in all sectors.

No 596

JN261708 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA) -- The Persian enemy sustained 14 killed and 3 vehicles, 2 excavators and 2 observation posts destroyed in military operations over the past 24 hours. Communique No 596 issued here this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that military operations took place in Gilan-e Gharb, Abadan, Shush, Sumar and Ahvaz. Iraqi forces sustained three martyrs in all sectors.

The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our capable forces continue their war activities in the operational sectors. The results of war activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our advanced units struck an enemy concentration in the Gilan-e Gharb area with all kinds of weapons and forced it to flee, leaving behind 11 killed.
B. Three killed and one vehicle and two observation posts destroyed in the Abadan area.
C. Two excavators destroyed in the Shush area.
D. One vehicle destroyed in the Sumar area.
E. One vehicle destroyed in the Ahvaz area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 14 killed, 3 vehicles, 2 excavators and 2 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses: Three martyrs in all sectors.

No 597

JN271640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA) -- The Persian enemy sustained 41 killed and losses of equipment in operational sectors during the past 24 hours. Communique No 597 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that one of our forward units raided enemy positions in the Shush area killing 18 of the enemy while another unit clashed with an enemy force in Gilan-e Gharb killing 16. The communique added that seven of the enemy were killed and heavy losses in equipment were sustained in Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and Abadan.

The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The soldiers of the new Al-Qadisiyah pursue their activities in the operational sectors with high morale. The results of war activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our forward units raided enemy positions in the Shush area, clashed with the enemy with all kinds of weapons and succeeded in killing 18 and wounding others.
B. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy force which tried to approach our positions in Gilan-e Gharb, engaged the enemy force and forced it to retreat after sustaining 16 killed and an unspecified number of wounded.
C. Four killed and two excavators destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
D. Three killed in the Abadan area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 41 killed, an unspecified number of wounded and 2 excavators destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Four martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles and one mortar damaged.

RAMADAN ADDRESSES GATHERING OF WORKERS

JN212130 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and commander of the popular army, has conveyed the greetings and good wishes of the party and revolution as well as those of President Saddam Husayn to the Iraqi working class.

In a speech at a mammoth gathering of workers in Al-Kashshafah Square to discuss the working class' role at the current stage, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: The battle being waged by our people and all fighting factions against the racist Persian enemy is the battle of the Arab nation. It is a battle we are waging on behalf of and in defense of this nation's honor and dignity. It requires us to step up the mobilization of masses to the maximum so as to foil the racist Persian regime's attempted offensives and to inflict the largest possible losses on it, until it yields to our just rights to land and waters.

He added that the popular army formations, which have taken part in the pan-Arab liberation battle side by side with our valiant armed forces since the early days of the battle, have developed greatly by gaining combat experiences and activities. He added that the Iraqi masses, which have gone to the training camps to volunteer in the battle of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah since the first day of the battle, have demonstrated high capability to face the racist Persian aggression and to supply the battlefronts with fresh power to perpetuate the spirit of victory.

He said that the workers, who are a revolutionary part of this great people, are today requested before all others to struggle on two fronts at the same time: through their positions at the production centers and through their actual participation in the battle until the racist Persian enemy acknowledges all our rights to our land and waters.

He stressed that, at this historical and decisive stage in the life of Iraq and the Arab nation, when a real war of liberation for pride and dignity is being waged, there is an evil will surrounding the [Arab] nation as represented in some of its traitorous and agent rulers. He said that some of those defeatist traitorous rulers have become well known for their treason. Those rulers hate to see Iraq victorious in this battle, he added.

KURDISH RADIO CLAIMS NEW VICTORY OVER IRAQIS

JN231540 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Revolution in Arabic 1555 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] supporters achieved a significant new victory over the enemy's forces, inflicting heavy losses and reconfirming their firmness and strength in the face of the aggressors and their vicious schemes.

At 0900 on (?28) December 1981, a joint force of supporters comprising units of the third and fifth groups of the third sector, as well as a unit of the party's first branch, attached a hostile military convoy on the Barzinjah road. The hostile convoy included a Neva military vehicle, a command jeep and two military Chevrolet vehicles carrying (Gorynov) guns. PUK supporters opened fire on the enemy for about an hour, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and forcing it to ask for aid from the [words indistinct] and Barzinjah camps. Another enemy force comprising several personnel carriers rushed to help the military convoy but was faced by fire from PUK supporters, who showed exceptional courage on the battlefield.

The enemy's losses in this battle were as follows:

I. A total of 20 enemy soldiers, including a second lieutenant, were killed.
II. An unidentified large number of enemy soldiers were wounded. The commander of the Barzinjah camp sustained serious wounds.
III. Four military vehicles were destroyed.

The inhabitants of the area were able to watch the battle and saw the enemy's losses in it. As usual, to hide its losses, the enemy began to shell nearby villages but failed to cause any losses to the inhabitants. The PUK supporters' joint force returned safely to its bases.

KURDS CLAIM REGIONAL COMMANDER KILLED IN AMBUSH

JN231754 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Bahdinani Kurdish 1535 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Barwari Balal -- During the heroic operation carried out on 4 January 1982 when units from martyrs 'Ali 'Ubaydallah and Sadiq forces belonging to the local committee in Al-'Imadiyah ambushed the government forces, the enemy lost the following:

The region's military commander was fatally wounded and later died in Mosul hospital. The (Batufah) battalion commander and three other officers were killed. Twelve soldiers were killed and 25 others wounded. Two armored vehicles and three other military vehicles were destroyed.

During the operation, two peshmerga were martyred and 5 others wounded.

VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF CONCLUDES VISIT TO SRV

For the conclusion of Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf's friendship visit to Vietnam on 22 January, including the joint communique, as carried by Hanoi Domestic Service, see the Vietnam section of the 25 January Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

KING HUSAYN RETURNS FROM BAHRAIN VISIT

JN241706 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn returned here from Manama this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Bahrain during which he and Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifh held talks on aspects and dimensions of Arab reality, current Arab and international developments; and strengthening cooperation between the two fraternal states.

His Majesty King Husayn lisened to a military briefing by Brig Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, chief of staff, and his aides on the general organization of the defense forces, the level of their training and the kind of arms they use. His majesty toured the departments of the general command.

On his departure from Bahraini airspace, his majesty sent the following cable to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah: Your Highness Brother Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, may God protect you.

As I leave your fraternal Arab state, I have the pleasure of conveying to your highness my sentiments of amity, respect and appreciation and great thanks and appreciation for the hospitality accorded me and my delegation, which made us feel at home and among our kin and brothers.

I would like to affirm to your highness Jordan's stand — with all its potentials and capabilities — alongside the fraternal Bahraini people in the confrontation of the elements of evil, sabotage and conspiracies which sought to shake the security and stability of Bahrain and the region's states. This visit gave me the opportunity to exchange views and consult with your highness on our Arab nation's political reality and ways to achieve a unified Arab stand within the framework of adhering to the principles of Arab solidarity so that our nation will be capable of confronting dangers and challenges and so that we can serve this nation's pan-Arab goals and sublime interest.

May God grant you success and protect you, so that you can lead the fraternal Bahraini people toward achieving dignity, strength and prosperity.

May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you. [signed] Your brother, Husayn

KING CONDOLES BREZHNEV ON SUSLOV DEATH

JN271606 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Amman, 27 Jan (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn today sent a cable of condolences to Leonid Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, expressing his condolences and those of the Jordanian Government and people on the death of Mikhail Suslov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo secretary.

'RESTORATION' OF EGYPTIAN-SOVIET TIES WELCOMED

JN270820 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Balance"]

[Text] It is reassuring to see the gradual restoration of normal ties between Egypt and the Soviet Union, symbolised most recently by the return to Egypt of 66 Soviet technicians to work on several major projects first built by the Soviet Union in the 1960's. We say the move is reassuring not because we want to see the Egyptians return to the Soviet camp. Rather, we think the move represents the desire of the new Egyptian president, Mr. Husni Mubarak, to tread a more balanced course between the two super-powers. We suspect that most Egyptians also share Mr. Mubarak's gut feeling that the violently pro-American course that had been set for the country by the late President as-Sadat is not in the long-term interest of the Egyptian nation.

The polarisation of the Middle East into pro-American and pro-Soviet camps, started in the 1950's, continues to this day with the partners and players changing but the overall game remaining the same. There are few better examples than Egypt if one wants to study the process of flip-flopping between the two super-powers. The result of such a process is fragmentation of the Arab world itself, and the transformation of individual states into diminutive political units whose economic and military reliance on one or the other super-power transforms them into little more than expendable appendages to Washington or Moscow's network of global interests. Mr. Mubarak appears to realise this, and we hope he can gradually bring Egypt back into a position of balance between the super-powers.

EDITORIAL ON DROPPED INQUIRY INTO ABU 'AYN CASE

JN280836 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Fair Weather Laws"]

[Text] You have to hand it to the American Government -- when it decides to hide its ethics in its back pocket, it sticks to its decision through thick and thin. The latest example of America's ability to discard its own fine ethical standards at the behest of Israeli interests is the decision a few days ago by the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee to drop its planned resolution of enquiry into the case of Ziyad Abu 'Ayn the young Palestinian who was recently extradited from the United States to Israel. Morris Draper, the usually honourable, lucid and credible deputy assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asia affairs, testified to the committee that "we have always seen the case as one involving criminal, not political, acts." That is most interesting statement, and one that further indicates the complicity of the U.S. State Department in the extradition of Mr. Abu 'Ayn. The guilt or innocence of Mr. Abu 'Ayn is not the point in question here. The relevant point is: Did the United States Government, in the person of its executive and judicial branches, conveniently discard all its legal principles and precedents to extradite Ziyad Abu 'Ayn with the intent of A) placating the Israelis and B) rewriting the extradition laws? Mr. Draper's answer to the house committee suggests that this is indeed the case. This argument is also strengthened by the fact that the American congress is in the midst of reviewing the 1901 extradition act, with an eye to drafting a new act that gives the secretary of state more power to determine in extradition cases if an alleged act was criminal or political in nature. But why, we ask, does rewriting American laws have to come at the expense of the freedom of a 21-year-old Palestinian youth? Does the due process of law apply only to the people of Poland? Can Mr. Draper please advise us on that while keeping a straight face?

AGREEMENT ON WATER PROJECT WITH IRAQ REACHED

JN271332 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jan 82 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] The Jordanian and Iraqi Governments have reached an agreement under which an annual capacity of 160 million cubic meters of water will be drawn from Iraqi waters to the northern and central areas of Jordan.

The competent authorities are now conducting the technical and financial studies of the project. A total of 750 km of pipelines will be used to carry the water.

KHADDAM GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT

NC271348 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stopped over at Beirut airport this morning on his way to New York to attend the UN General Assembly debate on Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. In reply to journalists' questions, Khaddam said:

[Begin recording] We have asked the UN General Assembly to convene an extraordinary session to discuss Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights after the UN Security Council failed to adopt sanctions. We will discuss with Arab and nonaligned groups and other groups at the General Assembly [words indistinct] imposition of sanctions against Israel. We are confident that the General Assembly will adopt important political resolutions. We will try to see to it that these resolutions will be implemented. In other words, we will try to make the General Assembly and its resolutions a strong framework for isolating the Israeli enemy.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The submission of the subject to the General Assembly does not need a decision. It is a procedural question and hence no state can use the veto right.

[Question] I mean a resolution denouncing Israel?

[Answer] A resolution denouncing Israel was issued immediately after the annexation of the Golan Heights. The draft resolution on imposing sanctions was then obstructed by the U.S. veto.

[Question] This is what I mean. How you will face the U.S. veto?

[Answer] We have asked the General Assembly to convene a meeting. We have also invited the Arab League Council to hold a meeting at the foreign ministers level. We do not want to act alone and adopt a Syrian attitude; we want to adopt an Arab attitude and then an international attitude.

[Question] Last question, Your Excellency. Following the postponment of the meeting of the Arab Followup Committee and following Minister Butrus' recent visit to Damascus, what is your view of future Lebanese-Syrian relations and do you believe the Followup Committee will meet shortly?

[Answer] The Followup Committee will meet on the date set for it. The postponment of the meeting was not deliberate and was not aimed at obstructing committee work. We believe the atmosphere is better now than in the past. We are all working to ensure that when the date for the meeting of the Followup Committee arrives, we will have prepared a proper atmosphere for appropriate measures and steps that serve the march of national detente and security in Lebanon.

[Question] What about Lebanese-Syrian relations?

[Answer] Lebanese-Syrian relations are always based on a common history and destiny. [end recording]

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR KUWAIT

JN280856 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Damascus, 28 Jan (SANA) -- A People's Assembly delegation led by Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi left Damascus for Kuwait early this morning to attend the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union's council which will be held from 30 January to 1 February. The delegation includes Ghassan Rajab, Dr Muhsin Bilal, Nur ad-Din al-Habbal, Hamid Hasan, Michael Rishah and Zafir Khayrallah. Israel's annexation of Syrian Arab territory in the Golan will be the main topic on the council's agenda. The People's Assembly delegation has prepared an important memorandum on this topic to be submitted to the council.

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG ARRIVES FOR TALKS

Shamir Welcoming Remarks

TA271217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig arrived a short while ago in Israel for talks on the autonomy negotiations and the continuation of the peace process. At Ben-Gurion Airport, Haig was welcomed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir;

[Begin recording] We are very appreciative of the special effort the secretary is investing in the effort to try and forward the peace in the Middle East. I can promise our guest that we on our part are doing our utmost in the same endeavors to advance peace in the Middle East. We all are looking forward to fruitful and constructive talks. Once again, welcome to Israel. [end recording]

From Ben-Gurion Airport the secretary is driving to Jerusalem to meet Prime Minister Begin, Foreign Minister Shamir and chief autonomy negotiator Dr Burg.

Meets With Shamir, Burg

TA271540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1520 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has told Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that despite the gaps between the positions of Israel and Egypt, and despite the intransigent declarations recently made in Cairo, he intends to continue with his effort to speedily advance the autonomy talks and he believes he can achieve results. Alexander Haig presented Shamir and later Dr Yosef Burg with a number of U.S. ideas to bridge the existing differences on the various aspects of autonomy. Here is a report by our political correspondent Gad Becker.

[Begin recording] [Becker] Alexander Haig this afternoon told his Israeli counterparts unequivocally that he intends to continue the efforts to reach a quick agreement on autonomy despite the political circumstances which appear to be much less than promising. Haig wanted to make sure the Israeli side continues to support his efforts. I hope after Sharon's talks with the top Egyptian leadership, the position in Jerusalem, which supports the speedy advancement of the talks, has not changed, the secretary of state said. Foreign Minister Shamir replied by saying that Israel really welcomes the U.S. initiative and is prepared to cooperate to reach an agreement, albeit without a clear target date. At the same time, Minister Shamir read to Haig a host of expressions made recently by Kamal Hasan 'Ali and other Egyptian personalities on the connection between the autonomy and the PLO, on Jerusalem and on a Palestinian state. These raise the question of whether it is at all possible to make progress, Shamir said. To repeat, Haig emphasized that he intends to pursue the intiative despite the differing positions. He will continue with the effort to study to the fullest extent the disputed issues. Today he pulled out of the thick case he carries with him a number of preliminary ideas on bridging the gaps, about land, among other things, as well as on the issues of settlement and legislation, to which the chairman of the ministerial autonomy team, Minister Yosef Burg, reacted thus:

[Burg] I can only say that the U.S. party has raised some issues, which are not the easiest, and we will see what progress we are making. Some of the ideas, I hope can promote things; on others there will certainly be arguments.

[Becker] Among the U.S. ideas which, let us note, are not yet formalized is the issue of the right of the inhabitants of east Jerusalem to vote. This important question might be mentioned in the meeting which is about to take place between Alexander Haig and Menahem Begin. [end recording]

Meets With Begin

TA272109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] After a 4-hour talk with Prime Minister Begin in his Jerusalem residence the U.S. secretary of state said that some progress had been made toward settling the disputes between Israel and Egypt but there is still much to do on this. Mr Haig said he had raised several formulae on certain narrow topics.

Israeli officials reported Haig had not suggested the convening of a summit or ministerial-level talks on the autonomy issue. The head of the Israeli autonomy negotiations team, Yosef Burg, who participated in the talk with Haig together with Ministers Sharon and Shamir said that some of the ideas brought up by the U.S. secretary are acceptable to Israel while the rest of the ideas are not.

Mr Haig himself said it is necessary to wait until his talks end in Jerusalem tomorrow before he knows whether he will have new ideas to raise in Cairo. He expressed the hope that his proposals will promote the negotiations indeed, but stressed that no deadline for the achievement of an agreement has been set.

Members of the U.S. secretary's party stated that the main bone of contention revolves around the question of the east Jerusalem Arab's right of vote to the autonomy authorities.

Begin Rejects Haig Proposal

TA280542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that, in his talk with Haig last night, the prime minister rejected the proposal to allow Arabs from East Jerusalem to vote in elections to the autonomy council because the eastern part of the city is not within the autonomous area. The discussions focused on the size of the administrative council, its powers and on Secretary Haig's proposal to issue an agreement on subjects that have been agreed upon.

The prime minister and Dr Burg said Israel does not want an enlarged self-administration council, nor will it agree that it should consist of more than 20 members, lest the impression be obtained that this is a legislative body. Secretary Haig proposes that the council consist of 40 members, while Egypt wants 80. Regarding the powers of the council, the prime minister said Israel would continue to oppose legislative powers for the council. Haig, on the other hand, proposes that the council be empowered to issue urban regulations.

Talks on Settlements

TA281309 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] The prime minister and senior Cabinet members explained to Alexander Haig, during his talks in Jerusalem, that settlement in the territories would continue after the autonomy is established. They promised that private land would not be expropriated for that purpose.

Makes Statement

TA281100 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1032 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Statement by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to departure of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig -- in English; live]

[Excerpt] During the (?past 24 hours) we held in-depth discussions on bilateral, international questions and in particular on issues still outstanding within the framework of the autonomy negotiations. I want to emphasize that progress was achieved in all these fields and can safely describe the talks as having been excellent and invaluable in that new light has been thrown on many of the points still under discussion.

We have once more demonstrated the seriousness of our commitment to the peace process and highlighted the spirit of cooperation existing between the United States and Israeli delegations. We are convinced that all efforts must be made to achieve a settlement before April 26th. We are equally convinced that if such an understanding is not reached by April 26th, then they must continue with full determination to work for agreement after that date.

We are grateful to Secretary Haig for his untiring efforts, and for his (?complete) determination to reach a settlement and [remainder of Shamir's remarks obscured by superimposed announcer's summary translation]

[Shamir -- in Hebrew] We are grateful to Secretary and Mrs Haig for their visit to Israel. We hope these efforts by all of us will be crowned with full success in the near future. Thank you.

POST COMMENTARY ON POLICY CHANGE IN EGYPT

TA280909 Jerusalem POST in English 28 Jan 82 p 8

[Moshe Sharon commentary: "Danger Signals in Sinai"]

[Text] Barring accidents, the fateful decision to evacuate the final portion of the Sinai will be carried out on time.

Paying careful attention to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir when he addressed a meeting in Jerusalem this week, I could not avoid detecting grave undertones of uncertainty regarding Egypt's intentions after Israel's final withdrawal.

Although Shamir stressed that peace with Egypt "stands on its own feet" and is not linked in any way to the outcome of the autonomy talks, I could not escape the feeling that this was not necessarily the Egyptian view; that it was, rather a piece of wishful thinking on Israel's part.

In the same speech, Shamir described a discussion which he had recently held with "an extremely important Egyptian official" whose name he was unable to reveal. The Egyptian asked Shamir how Israel could expect Egypt to ask for anything less than full independence for the "great and valiant Palestinian people." Egypt, added the Egyptian, could not accept the autonomy plan precisely because of Israel's interpretation of it: no state and no self-determination.

Shamir's reply to all this was: "But you have agreed to it, you signed the Camp David accords, which contain a plan for autonomy, not for a state or self-determination."

From a strictly legal point of view, the foreign minister's answer was sound, but politically, and particularly in the current anti-Israel climate in the world, it can only be a basis for a post factum legal analysis of the peace treaty on the Camp David accords.

Shamir did not reveal the Egyptian's reply to his rejoinder, if indeed there was one. But the answer has, in fact, emerged repeatedly through official and semi-official Egyptian sources from the moment the Camp David accords were signed.

The Egyptians have stressed that statement, whatever its original form, has a great deal to do with the new spirit which is being injected into Egypt by the Mubarak regime. It has very much to do with the de-As-Sadatization of Egypt.

One of the major goals of the post-As-Sadat regime is the restoration of normal, even cordial, relations with the Russians. It was As-Sadat who expelled the Russians on the eve of the Yom Kippur war and began to bring Egypt nearer to the West. The disengagement of Egypt from the Russians has therefore been regarded as the major achievement of As-Sadat's regime.

His anti-Soviet policy was fully rewarded: It paved the way for the establishment of Egypt as a major element in the U.S. global policy; it opened the American arsenals to Egypt, as well as the American purse and the ears of the American media. It brought to Egypt immense prestige and unprecedented Western political support.

It should not, however, be forgotten that As-Sadat's pro-Western policy was greatly assisted by the peace treaty with Israel. For, in addition to retrieving Sinai -- an immense achievement in itself -- the treaty was of enormous help in changing Egypt's image. It provided Egypt with respectability in the eyes of the leading most responsible Western countries, and it enabled Egypt to change places with Israel -- to move from the dock into the witness box.

Now that these goals have been achieved, Mubarak is able to ponder how he can retain the achievements while minimizing the cost. It is no coincidence that Egypt's new president and his spokesmen have repeatedly stressed the need to return Egypt to its natural place -- in the heart of the Arab and Islamic world. In a recent address to a special convention of the National Democratic Party of Egypt, Mubarak spoke of Egypt's strategic interests being connected first and foremost with the Arab, Islamic and African worlds. This kind of talk is reminiscent of An-Nasir's policy of the "three circles" -- the Arab, the Islamic and the African, which he saw as being Egypt's natural arena of activity.

There are clear signs that the Mubarak regime is returning to the spirit and practice of the "Philosophy of the Revolution," the title of An-Nasir's famous book in which he expounds the theory of the "three circles."

A return to An-Nasir's principles fits well to the pattern of the de-As-Sadatization of Egypt. For after all, it was As-Sadat's policy which almost completely obliterated the memoray of An-Nasir, the beloved hero of the rejectionist Arab states and the neo-super-Arab nationalists.

The cordial relations with the Soviet Union were a cornerstone of An-Nasir's foreign policy, but this came at the expense of normal relations with the West, particularly with the United States.

Mubarak has no intention of losing the West, but he also has a soft spot for the Russians. He studied in the Soviet Union, he was trained there in the arts of war, and both before 1973 and after, he was one of the most important Egyptian personalities to foster relations between Egypt and the Eastern bloc.

Now that the immediate political goals of Egypt have been achieved, and the withdrawal from Sinai is soon to be completed, Mubarak evidently feels free to embark on a new policy that will erable him to retain the existing gains and, at the same time, widen Egypt's maneuverability.

By renewing cordial relations with the Russians, he will have an alternative source of weapons (for, after all, the Egyptian Army is still in great need of Soviet spare parts and ammunition). He will also, with the Russians on his side, be able to embark on his new Middle East policy of retaining the formal peace treaty with Israel and promoting the Arab aspirations of pushing Israel back to the pre-six day war borders.

The broad lines of the post-April 26 policy have been described many times. Soon after completing the withdrawal from Sinai, the autonomy negotiations will reach a crisis. The Egyptians will say that they can no longer discuss the future of another people -- the Palestinians -- and that the Palestinians should participate independently and be represented by the PLO.

The best framework for the talks, the Egyptians will say, is the Geneva conference. The Egyptians will want it, the Russians will advocate it, and most of the Arab states will agree to participate in it. And the Americans will be unable to say no.

Egypt will thus free itself of its commitment to the Camp David accords and will then be able to lead an Arab political offensive against Israel, aided by the Soviets and the Europeans, the architects of the Venice delegation.

BORDER POSTS AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH EGYPT

TA271455 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1425 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Government Press Office release]

[Text] Jerusalem, 27 Jan -- Israel will build for the Egyptians the four Egyptian border posts between Israel and Egypt. An agreement on this was signed today in the border posts near Ne'ot Sinay by Transport Ministry Director General Dr 'Uzi Landau and Director General of the Airports Authority Dr Ramon Har'el, as Israel's representatives on the one hand, and by Deputy Reconstruction Minister (Majdi Ma'mun) and Dr 'Ali (Abu Ziyad), the head of the Sinai Development Authority, as Egypt's representatives, on the other.

Today's signing ceremony followed a decision reached on 27 October 1981 between Defense Minister Sharon and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali according to which Israel would build the Egyptian border posts with Egyptian financing.

Following the bilateral transporation talks it was agreed that the Israeli Transport Ministry, through its airports authority, will handle the building of the Egyptian border posts.

In this framework four border checkpoints will be set up: In Rafah, Nizzana, Ra's an-Naqb near the 'Ezyon airfield, and Tabah.

The location of the Tabah border post will be decided when the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee ends the clarifications and checks regarding the final border line.

EGYPTIAN EXPERTS ALLOWED TO TOUR SINAI

TA261253 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jan 82 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel has agreed to Egypt's request to allow its experts to tour southern Sinai to plan the Egyptian deployment in the area after the completion of the Israeli withdrawal.

In political contacts held between the two countries, Israel has advised Egypt not to conduct expert tours of the Yamit area until after the problems with the local settlers and members of the movement to stop the Sinai withdrawal have been solved. The Egyptians accepted this position.

The talks between delegations from both countries on border demarcation near Elat and Rafah will begin next Sunday in Tel Aviv. The Egyptians continue to insist that the border around Elat be set according to the British-Turkish agreement of 1906.

Israel intends to repeat its request that Egypt agree to move the border by about 1 km in order to leave Rafi Nelson's vacation village and the new hotel that is being built there in Israeli territory.

The problem of marking the border in Rafah will also be discussed in the talks. This might have far-reaching implications for the city's inhabitants, some of whom will probably remain under Israeli sovereignty, others under Egyptian rule.

JERICHO MAYOR SUPPORTS PLO-ISRAEL DIALOGUE

JN271630 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf has told our radio correspondent that he supports the statement recently made by [Bethlehem Mayor] Ilyas Frayj on the necessity for a Palestinian Arab dialogue with Israel in order to achieve a just solution to the Palestine question. He said: It is now definite that war will not solve the Palestinian problem. Israel is an established state which is recognized internationally and is a member of the United Nations. Khalaf added: It is also time Israel recognized the rights of the Palestinian people. All the people of the region support the achievement of peace in the Middle East.

SHAMIR ON 'NORMALIZATION' OF BORDER WITH SYRIA

PM261523 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 23 Jan 82 p 2

[Gustaf von Platen interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir: "Syria Wants To Conquer Us Militarily"; date and place not given]

[Text] "Foreign Minister Shamir looked bored; he seemed to be fighting a yawn. I understood him. He knew that for the next half-hour he would have to answer the questions of yet another journalist about the Golan Heights. How many times has he already done this?

[Question] Why did Israel annex the area now? What was the reason -- the real reason? How do you see the consequences? What advantages did Israel win -- and how much do these outweigh the disadvantages: the Arab states' increased aggressiveness, the West's growing enmity and Washington's obvious irritation?

What are the answers to these questions, Mr Foreign Minister? It has been said that Israel grasped the opportunity to annex the Golan area while the eyes of the world were fixed on the Polish drama. Is this correct?

Yitzhak Shamir replied with a certain amount of indignation: "It has nothing to do with the situation in Poland. Absolutely nothing!"

[Question] It has also been said that the annexation decision was made because of an unusually rancorous, aggressive speech made by the Syrian president a few days earlier. Is this correct?

[Answer] As everyone knows we have tried several times to begin negotiations with Syria. But Damascus has always refused and President al-Asad's latest declaration, which was very extreme, showed that Syria is adhering to its refusal.

[Question] It has also been claimed that Israel wanted to demonstrate its position, because it had had alarming reports of a hardening attitude in Washington.

[Answer] Official U.S. policy has never aimed at driving us back to the 1967 borders. But some statements from sources in Washington worried us, including a number of statements which hinted that Washington took a positive view of the Saudi Arabian peace plan which bears the name of Prince Fahd. And of course, we have not forgotten the so-called Rogers plan from President Nixon's term, so there is every reason to believe that such tendencies exist in the United States. [answer ends]

The interviewer has gotten the fish to bite, at least temporarily.

"But," the foreign minister continued behind half-closed eyelids, "the real reason for the government decision on the Golan Heights was as follows: long ago we decided we would not withdraw from the area and we would sooner or later have to normalize the situation there.

"Since we will shortly be facing a situation in which all of our borders will be normalized, we decided to do the same with our border with Syria."

"It is true the border with Egypt will be "normalized" in accordance with the terms of the Camp David agreement. Israel will retreat to its pre-1967 borders and relinquish the whole of the Sinai area to its former archenemy. Shamir's statement should therefore be interpreted as meaning that the government -- in part to silence the domestic opposition to the return of Sinai and in part to avoid possible future attempts by the United States to exert pressure over the Golan Heights -- decided to take action.

Normally when Israel acts the long-term consequences tend to be only a mild problem. Some uproar in the world press, angry statements in the Arab countries, debates in the United Nations and irritation in Washington; in general, storms of verbal protest soon abate.

[Question] How were things this time? Worse than expected?

[Answer] We knew there would be a certain amount of negative reaction. But we were surprised by the countermeasures Reagan adopted. None of us believed, for example, that the United States would drag in the agreement on strategic cooperation, which has nothing to do with this. No, we hadnot anticipated the special measures that were adopted.

The foreign minister paused and then continued: Relations between the United States and Israel have had their high points and their low water marks. But basically they have always been close and friendly, and this is due to a fundamental need felt by both countries, dictated by the realities, by the feelings of both peoples for each other and by common views and interests. The present conflicts will disappear like clouds on a cloudy day.

[Question] But have not the Golan Heights caused the two countries to fall out? And has Prime Minister Begin's violent outburst against the U.S. ambassador not made matters worse?

[Answer] Mr Begin's outburst was not personal, since he feels so closely related with the U.S. people. But he was upset that the United States had adopted measures to punish us. He wanted to change the direction of relations between the two countries. And I hope that they will soon return to normal.

[Question] Do you think Mr Begin told the Americans off to improve relations?

[Answer] Well, it happens sometimes that within a family tough words are used to describe the behavior of one member of the family, but the irritation tends to subside.

[Question] A final question: There was a demarcation line between Syria and Israel....

[Answer] Now it is our border; we see it as Israel's border.

[Question] Does this mean you are unwilling to discuss border adjustments in future negotiations with Syria?

[Answer] There will be no discussions of border changes.

[Question] Not even minor changes?

[Answer] We have said several times we are ready to negotiate with all of our neighbors without preconditions. This includes Syria -- but Syria does not want to negotiate with us. They want to conquer us militarily.

[Answer ends]

Foreign Minister Shamir looked at the clock. Time was up. We shook hands and I went out into the anteroom decorated with photographs of his great predecessors in the post -- Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Abba Eban.

RABIN URGES AUTONOMY AGREEMENT BEFORE APRIL

TA241856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Labor Knesset member Yitzhaq Rabin has again urged the government to do all it can to reach an agreement over autonomy with Egypt before all of Sinai is returned in April. Rabin was speaking to the Economic Club in Tel Aviv. With more on Rabin's remarks, here is Dvora Nahshon:

[Begin recording] [Nahshon] Yitzhaq Rabin believes that if an autonomy agreement is not reached before April there will be plenty of problems ahead and plenty of so-called peace plans passed off in Israel's direction. Rabin predicts that Egypt will turn toward the Arab world, the Saudi eight-point plan will return to the headlines and the Europeans will become more active in pressing the Saudis to implement their plan. This will all happen, Rabin believes, because without an autonomy agreement, the link between the peace treaty with Egypt and the Camp David accords will disappear and Camp David will no longer serve a larger purpose.

[Rabin] If an agreement will not be reached Camp David accords will be remembered as the accords that produced the peace between Egypt and Israel and nothing more than that.

[Nahshon] Yitzhaq Rabin has other fears about the Sinai evacuation, which he says will be carried out despite the mixed feelings all Israeli citizens have about it. Once Israel leaves the strategic Sinai behind for the Egyptians, the effectiveness of Israel's political voice will be substantially decreased.

[Rabin] Let's use the time till the 26th of April to establish political facts and maybe others, too. After all, no doubt that till the 26th of April Egypt and the United States will be more limited in their reaction to unilateral action by Israel than after that. I am not saying, and don't misunderstand me, that there is anyone that has adopted this policy. I try to analyze the options. [end recording]

SAUDI PAPER CITED ON FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN REGION

JN241450 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1125 GMT 24 Jan 82

["Observation" by Ya'qub Khazmah]

[Text] Foreign influence in the region would not exist were it not for the gap created by the Israeli-Arab dispute. We do not need to prove this because, from our point of view, it is an obvious fact known to everyone. The conclusion which must be derived from this is that closing the door in the face of foreign influence can be completed by solving the Middle East dispute peacefully through calm dialogue and constructive negotiations.

We are saying this in connection with what was written by the Saudi paper AL-BILAD about the Gulf Cooperation Council secretary general's talks with the leaders and officials of the Gulf states and the Arab League secretary general's talks in several Arab states on the holding of an Arab summit conference.

The Saudi paper AL-BILAD said these talks stressed the role these states play in defending their security and stability, especially at a time when the Soviet-U.S. attempts to involve the Middle East in the areas of Soviet conflict have become obvious.

What the Saudi paper said is true because foreign intervention has succeeded in getting this region into international conflict. The Soviet Union has its own interests and the United States has its own interests, too. Each is working for its interests as well as worrying about its own problems. Foreign intervention has deeply penetrated some of this region's states and has penetrated less deeply in others. But this does not change the fact that the foreign influence has entered the region through the gap created by the Middle East conflict. If it is not possible to bridge this gap, at least it should not be widened by opening the doors wide and allowing it to involve this region further in the zones of international conflict.

This can be achieved, as I have said, by finding a positive, realistic and peaceful solution to the Middle East problem. Otherwise, continuing to talk about war and persuing the same negative path which was followed by most Arab states, will not lead to what the Saudi paper AL-BILAD is calling for; namely, establishing stability in the region and putting an end to involving it in the zones of international conflict.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTS ON CONFLICT WITH SAUDI ARABIA

TA221453 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 82 pp 13, 19

[Ze'ev Schiff Commentary: "The Friction With the Saudis"]

[Text] The Israeli-Saudi friction has recently reached higher levels. The old disputed issues like that over the islands of Tiran and Sanafir have resurfaced, coupled with new problems such as Israeli aircraft sorties over the joint borderline. It appears as though Saudi Arabia's involvement in the Israeli-Arab conflict has deepened and it is barely possible to avoid some sort of friction and conflict with it. Once this found expression in a struggle over the AWACS aircraft or over the need to overfly Saudi skies en route to bombing the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Sometimes it takes the form of the fight over Saudi Arabia's role in the affair of the Syrian missiles in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region and the cease-fire in southern Lebanon, or the need to fight the Fahd plan. Saudi Arabia is becoming a most serious rival, with the fighting not necessarily confined to the battlefield. This is an opponent that has more than once twisted Israel's arm on the U.S. front — once over the sale of F-15's to Saudi Arabia during the Carter days, and another time over AWACS and the sale of auxiliary equipment for combat aircraft by the incumbent U.S. administration.

Lately, it has become increasingly obvious that we examine and evaluate this important rival based primarily on military factors. Thus, an assessment of Saudi Arabia is being carried out chiefly through military spectacles even though its main power lies in the political-economic area. In order to comprehend what is really taking place in this important country, emphasis should be placed neither on military experts nor on intelligence. What should first and foremost interest us is not whether or not the number of tanks stationed in the Tabuk army base has increased by several dozen and whether new ditches have been dug; rather, as far as a true analysis of the situation is concerned, priority should be given to reviewing the administrative and social fabric in that country. There are certain signs that indicate that we in Israel do not know enough about what is happening in Saudi Arabia and that when more knowledgeable experts speak, their words do not reach the higher echelons. Thus we are liable to experience repeated errors. One occurred not long ago regarding the Fahd plan, with official elements arguing at a one stage that the latest push for that plan was sponsored jointly with Egypt. Even earlier, in 1978, the prime assessment in Israel was that Saudi Arabia would ultimately support the Camp David process. Arguments that Saudi Arabia, together with extremist Arab countries, would also impose a siege on Egypt were rejected. The obvious conclusion from all the above is that we are lacking first of all a fuller political and strategic evaluation of Saudi Arabia, and that such an evaluation cannot be based solely on what is being done in its army depots or on the quantity of arms it purchases.

Let us now go back to the twin issues that were the cause of the latest friction between us and Saudi Arabia. The question of the islands of Tiran and Sanafir is nothing new. The Saudis have brought it up before. They scored an achievement over that in that Washington has long recognized the Saudi claim of sovereignty over those two islands, and we are well advised to bear that in mind. In the past, too, with the help of U.S. pressure and its appeal to us, they managed to force us not to station forces on Sanafir, which is the closer of the two to the Saudi shores. Israel has since then made do with occasional patrols of the island, usually by air. The Saudi furor is thus made more understandable today.

In theory, these two islands are Saudi territory; but actually three other countries -- Israel, Egypt and the United States -- decided to treat that territory as though it were their own. Moreover, those three countries have invited military forces from foreign countries (the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] to position troops there or, alternatively, to supervise the islands.

Washington, which -- to repeat -- has recognized Saudi Arabia's claim to the two islands, well understands the complicated situation it is in regarding its friend Saudi Arabia, and is therefore not interested in any unnecessary publicity on the issue. It is not interested in having the question of the sovereignty over the islands raised and having the Saudis provoked by it, so that they in turn pressure Washington and end up being in even greater conflict with Egypt.

However, the situation is more complicated than it seems from this formal aspect alone. The affair began as a distinct act of war taken by Saudi Arabia against Israel when, in the early 1950's, it handed those two islands to Egypt to impose a naval blockade on Israel in the Sharm ash-Shaykh straits. Before 1967 it never entered Riyadh's mind to ask for the islands back. In the peace agreements, the islands were included in Zone C (and this was marked on the maps, which constitute an official appendix to the peace treaty); in other words, this is an area in which the MFO will operate, it having originally been said to be a UN force.

Those currently finding themselves in a catch-22 situation are Cairo and Washington. Saudi Arabia does not have diplomatic ties with Egypt at the moment, that is true, but it might demand that Egypt return the two island to it. If Egypt responds favorably, it will be accused of violating the peace agreement in which it undertook to allow the MFO to supervise the islands. Then Washington might also find itself in an uncomfortable situation vis-a-vis its friend Saudi Arabia if Riyadh actually demands the return of those islands.

If indeed Saudi Arabia makes this move, it will have only one meaning: that it wants to sabotage the peace agreement, stir up new tension in the area and undermine the stability of one of the places believed to be the most sensitive in the entire Middle East. Israel presently has no reason to agree to the return of the islands to Saudi Arabia. It demands fulfillment of the peace agreement to the letter. The question is not whether a military force will or will not be stationed on the islands, but whether or not they will be included in the area under MFO jurisdiction and supervision. The IDF never stationed permanent forces there, making do with only routine patrols. Saudi Arabia is in a state of war with Israel and announces this publicly, so we have no reason to agree to have a body that blatantly proclaims itself an enemy of Israel again take over these two strategically important islands. This is the way things stand nowadays. Certainly changes in the future are possible, just as changes can occur in other specifics of the Israeli-Egyptian military agreement. Yet in this case it is Saudi Arabia that should produce proof that the situation has indeed altered; it is not Israel's job to do this.

Still another matter is the Israeli sorties. In three incidents Israel has recently admitted it carried out regular patrol missions over Saudi Arabia. Israel admitted outright that it overflew Tabuk. But flights over the military town of Tabuk are nothing new. The interests of Israeli intelligence are involved, along with the need to make certain demonstrative actions. The demonstration was aimed at Washington (after the AWACS and auxiliary aircraft equipment deal); the show of muscle was aimed at Saudi Arabia. Incidentally, it is not the first time that flights over Tabuk have become an exhibitionary affair.

In his latest book, ["Saudi Arabia in the 1980's"] William Quandt says that in the course of one such flight over Tabuk in 1977-1978, the Israeli aircraft dropped empty fuel containers to show their prowess to the Saudis. This was, in fact, also the nature of the latest Israeli mission over Tabuk. When Saudi Arabia declares that it is in a state of war with Israel, this prompts Israel -- and grants it the justification — to fly over and patrol its military bases to see what is happening there. We are permitted to carry out such flights to no lesser degree -- perhaps even to a greater degree — than the United States has the right to fly over Cuba, to provide but one example. However, the question, of course, is one of proportions. We want to know, for instance, if the offensive arms purchased in the United States are stationed in Tabuk, but this does not mean that such flights should be carried out daily. They certainly should not be conducted with the goal of humiliating the Saudis or provoking them into instructing their aircraft to take off against us. This method smacks of deliberate provocation. It is a priori unnecessary, unless we want the region to heat up even more.

The other Israeli missions, about which Iraq has complained, are of a different nature. Israel had not directly confessed to having carried them out. Here the target was Iraq, whereas Saudi Arabia — or Jordan — were merely places our aircraft had to fly over. One can assume that these missions resulted from defense needs, but one should also be alert to the attendant implications of such missions. After two reports of Israeli overflights of Iraqi territory not far from the Saudi border, it was reported that Riyadh approached Washington with a complaint. This complaint was accompaned by a request that the United States help it close the aerial gap in the area in order to prevent foreign aircraft from penetrating it. The Saudis explained that Israeli overflights arouse anger and stir up disquiet among army officers. As a result, they have no choice but to make an effort and close that gap. This can be done by installing additional radar stations there, or by placing surface-to-air missile batteries there, or by agreeing to deploy in Tabuk the F-15's as well, the first dispatch of which has already arrived in Saudi Arabia. Also possible is a request that the U.S. AWACS aircraft begin supervising that area, and not just the Persian Gulf. The United States is not likely to acknowledge this request, but this will not deter the Saudis from trying to close the gap by themselves. There has already been some talk on aerial-intelligence cooperation among Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Therefore, we must take into account the possibility that such overflights might shut the door to routes that must remain open for more important ends. As in earlier cases, the question is whether an immediate tactical need cannot harm an important defense requirement that might be most essential during emergencies.

LIBYA

LIAISON BUREAU SOURCE SAYS U.S. FORCES IN CHAD

LD271644 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Jan (JANA) -- A source at the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau in Tripoli today issued the following statement.

It has been established that there are elemnts of U.S. forces among some of the African peacekeeping units in Chad. This is regarded as a grave development and one which the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and other African states that care for security and stability in Chad cannot ignore.

A spokesman added that the interference by and the presence of the forces of a great power in Chad will place Chad within the sphere of international conflict and will shake stability and security in this fraternal African country and consequently expose to danger the peace and security of Africa.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, which decided not to send military forces into Chad even if asked to do so, cannot remain indifferent to the presence of the U.S. forces in Chad. While exposing this U.S. interference and military presence in Chad, which are a violation of the OAU resolutions on Chad, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah calls on the fraternal African countries and the OAU to shoulder their responsibilities in this respect.

GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORTED CONTACTS WITH EGYPT

LD271454 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jan (JANA) -- The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah today categorically denied recent Kuwaiti press reports about alleged contacts between Cairo and Tripoli.

A statement issued by the Jamahiriyah political mission in Kuwait, published in the Kuwaiti press today, said relations with the Egyptian regime are not a question of bilateral disputes or personal attitudes and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's position stems from its pan-Arab commitment as dictated by the supreme national interests of the Arab nation.

The statement referred to the resolutions adopted by the Arab countries with regard to boycotting the Egyptian regime because it had thrown itself in the lap of Zionism and U.S. imperialism and pointed out that this attitude should not prevent the return of Egypt to the Arab nation's fold if the Egyptian regime retracts from its policy and abrogates all its ties with the Zionist enemy and U.S. policy, which is hostile to the Arabs.

The statement, as carried by Kuwaiti papers, says all the reports published in this regard are completely fabricated and aim at harming the Jamahiriyah people and their established pan-Arab stands and also at harming the interests of the Arab nation, thereby serving the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialist policy in the area. Furthermore, the statement said, it is an attempt to distort Arab steadfastness in the face of capitulatist designs.

COMMENTARY SCORES REAGAN ADDRESS TO NATION

LD271518 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Jan 82

['Abd al-Hamid ibn Barkah commentary]

[Text] Last night, U.S. President Ronald Reagan made a speech to the U.S. people, in which he made a general review of his domestic and foreign policies.

He admitted his policy's failure to make any economic progress. He spoke of the financial deficit in the general state budget, which he said, will not exceed $100 billion this year.

On the occasion of 1 year since Reagan's assumption of office, observers point out that Reagan's failure seems real as shown by the statistics which speak of the high inflation rate, high bank interests and the escalation of unemployment to levels unprecedented in the United States. Unemployment now stands at 8.9 percent of the total manpower, that is, about 9.5 million unemployed. This constitutes the worst economic crisis in the United States since World War II.

U.S. official figures show that national income dropped in the last 4 months of 1981 by 5.3 percent, which represents the highest drop since the 1980 crisis.

The deterioration of economic conditions has intensified the growing rate of inflation, which has reached 10 percent. This constant deterioration of the U.S. economy is the result of Reagan's unsound policy in running matters and a bias in favor of the interests of the capitalist forces and monopolist companies at the expense of the overwhelming majority of the U.S. people. Reagan has cut taxes on major capitals and increased taxes on other sectors particularly education and health services.

To find a way out of this impasse, President Reagan began to rely increasingly on the export of arms to specific areas of the world. U.S. arms sales during the current fiscal year set a record $24 billion, that is more than $65 million per day.

This concentration on arms sales is in line with the terrorist course adopted by the U.S. administration and its persistent efforts to impose its will over the world and check the will of the peoples struggling for freedom. Foremost among the countries attached to the bandwagon of U.S. arms are the racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine.

Perhaps the biggest negative element in the U.S. budget is its move toward the militerization of the foreign policy of the United States -- a move adopted by Reagan with such vehemence that it led the U.S. administration to commit acts it should not have committed. Recently, U.S. relations with other world countries have witnessed some straining particularly in view of the United States' open interference in the internal affairs of world countries and peoples.

Consequently, this has had its effect on the general state budget of the United States. Military expenditure in the budget has been put at $327 billion in the coming year -- an increase, which undoubtedly, is being made at the expense of the interests of U.S. society particularly under the slogan of cutting taxes on major capitalist and monopolist companies.

SUDAN REGIME FALTERING: PRICE INCREASES PENDING

LD280908 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jan (JANA) -- The Sudanese ruler has begun to falter in his internal policies as his last moments are getting nearer and the reins of power is slipping away from his hand following the uprisings of the courageous Sudanese people.

During this week, Numayri issued a series of decisions to dissolve his political apparatus, dismiss his vice president and replace him by others. Once more, he is desperately trying to save his regime from collapse. He issued one more statement for the formation of a committee which includes 73 of his aides whose responsibility is to draft a new policy for the so-called Sudanese Socialist Union so as to make it easier to rule.

Concerning the acute internal economic crisis, which has reached its worst stage since British colonialism, Numayri ordered yesterday a price increase of 25 percent on imported cigarettes and 10 percent on home produced ones. The regime's minister of economy found a pretext for the increase by saying that it was part of Numayri's decision to revive the economy and back the bankrupt budget of Sudan.

It is worth noting that Numayri had ordered a price increase on sugar and petrol and is likely to announce soon further increases in food prices.

BRIEFS

CUBAN MINISTER -- Tripoli, 26 Jan (JANA) -- The secretary of the General People's Committee (?for) Health this morning received the Cuban cooperation minister currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. The meeting, which was also attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Housing, reviewed bilateral cooperation in the health sector and means of furthering it. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1738 GMT 26 Jan 82 LD]

SUDAN

NUMAYRI RETURNS TO KHARTOUM, ACTIVITIES REPORTED

JN271510 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jan (SUNA) -- President Numayri returned to Khartoum at 1630 today following a short visit to Egypt, during which he held talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

To Address Committee 30 Jan

LD262056 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Summary] President Numayri will address the first meeting of the popular committee on Saturday morning at the Sudanese Socialist Union headquarters.

To Discuss Issues With Groups

JN271515 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jan (SUNA) -- Awad Malik, secretary of the SSU Presidency, has declared that President Numayri will meet with a number of citizens and leaders of professional groups in the next few days. Awad said, during these meetings, the president will discuss national action issues and learn the citizens viewpoints on them.

MENA DESCRIBES CALM FOLLOWING NUMAYRI MEASURES

NC271429 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jan (MENA) -- An atmosphere of satisfaction and calm, accompanied with caution, now dominates the Sudanese capital in the wake of the measures Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri took yesterday and the day before yesterday, dissolving the Sudanese Socialist Union, relieving his first deputy 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil of all his posts and finally putting 22 officers on pension. Despite the fact that the reasons for relieving the first vice president of his posts and retiring 22 officers have not been announced, observers in the Sudanese capital believe, however, that what has taken place has been a set of complementary measures by President Ja'far Numayri to crush corruption and to deal with indiscipline in the armed forces and the governmental departments as part of his declared program to revive the economy and reduce government expenditure.

Meanwhile, it has been clearly observed that the 70-member committee, which President Numayri formed to reorganize the Socialist Union, includes a number of prominent cadres from all the Sudanese parties active before May 1969, except the Sudanese Communist Party.

A correspondent says the complete calm and normal life in the Sudanese capital (?indicates) that President Numayri is confident of the support of the Sudanese man in the street and the measures he has taken. It can said, finally, that in the next few days Sudan will witness changes in various (?sectors) of the Sudanese Armed Forces and new officers will be appointed [words indistinct] of those who have been put on pension.

It is worth noting that this is the [words indistinct] in the armed forces since July 1975 when the communist elements in the Sudanese Army were (?liquidated).

RASAS CALLS FOR PRESERVING PEACE IN SOUTH

JN271445 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Waw, 27 Jan (SUNA) -- Maj Gen Qasam Allah Rasas, chairman of the Transitional Higher Executive Council for the Southern Region, urged the masses in the region to learn the lessons derived from the civil war and the resultant destruction and divisions.

Addressing a popular meeting in the city of Waw yesterday, Major General Rasas underlined the need for preserving peace and protecting the Addis Ababa agreement in the south. He appealed to the regular forces to maintain law and to preserve security in the region.

Rasas asserted that the issue of whether the region is be divided will be determined according to constitutional regulations, emphasizing that the National People's Assembly is the party to decide on this issue.

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE DISSOLVES SSU STRUCTURES

EA252044 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU], after perusal of Article 14/T of the SSU basic statutes, has issued the following decree:

After perusal of Article 14/T/A of the SSU basic statutes and (?under the authority) of the national action leadership mentioned in 1/A and B for the purpose of widening the circle of participation in building Sudan and in bearing collective responsibility at this grave historic turn through which our country is passing, the president has resolved:

1. To affirm adherence to the single political organization, based on the alliance of the people's working forces as a comprehensive vessel for the Sudanese people, and upholding Article 4 of the country's permanent constitution;

2. To dissolve the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, the office of the SSU secretary general and the General Secretariat;

3. To allow SSU officials in the regions and in Khartoum Province to remain in office until the holding of elections on a date to be announced later;

4. To form a popular committee to develop the SSU's work at all levels, as well as to review its charter, by-laws and organizational rules, for positive participation by the masses of the Sudanese people. The committee is to submit its recommendations to the SSU president;

5. To terminate the appointment or delegation of all employees of the General Secretariat of the SSU and to return them to their ministries, departments and institutions, thus ensuring for them all their employment rights in implementation of the directive to reduce expenditure and to observe austerity.

Issued under my signature, at the SSU, Sunday, 24 January, 1982.

[Signed] Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the SSU

MIRGHANI COMMENTS ON CHAD, LIBYA, FOREIGN BASES

PM221135 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 82 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak in Khartoum -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] How do you see Sudanese-Chadian relations after the recent visit to Sudan by Goukouni Oueddei, head of the Provisional Transitional Union Government in Chad?

[Answer] Our relations with Chad are eternal, neighborly, fraternal and deep-rooted. They are more than just neighborly relations. There is harmony and closeness between the two countries' peoples. This is why Sudan has been and is still interested in developments in fraternal Chad and in making every effort to establish security and stability in Chad and to prevent foreign interference in its affairs.

The Chadian president's visit and meeting with his brother President Numayri have added a new dimension to the eternal relations between Chad and Sudan.

Sudan does not regard the Chadian president's visit as a restoration of relations but rather a revitalization and consolidation of existing relations between the two countries, with a view to ending Chad's sufferings and restoring its stability and security.

The agreement of views on the topics discussed during the visit was natural. Sudan expressed its full support for the Chadian Government and people under the leadership of President Goukouni. This stems from Sudan's consistent policy of good-neighborliness and its commitment to give no assistance to any forces opposed to the legitimate Chadian Government which in turn stems from our policy of noninterference in the affairs of others.

It was agreed to reopen the Sudanese Embassy in Ndjamena immediately, to reopen the Numayri School and to resume Sudan Airways flights. The two sides also agreed to form a joint ministerial committee to discuss issues of mutual interest and a subcommittee to discuss security and border issues. Sudan also will provide some food aid to Chad.

[Question] What about Sudanese-Libyan relations?

[Answer] Our relations with Libya deteriorated when Sudan took a stand against the Libyan invasion of Chad. Ours was a principled stance based on our foreign policy, which is committed to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and opposition to foreign military presence. We naturally oppose any military intervention in Africa, Asia or anywhere else. Apparently, Libya considered our attitude to be directed solely against it and, therefore, became hostile toward us. Perhaps I should add here that there are differences of opinion between us and Libya on other issues. Surely, we are all aware of the subversive actions that Libya has taken and is taking against Sudan and of Libya's tendentious and cheap propaganda.

[Question] In the light of the latest developments in the Middle East and Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, what has become of Sudan's move toward Arab solidarity and to what extent will Sudan participate in the next Arab summit conference?

[Answer] We believe Israel is steadily implementing its expansionist policy. The annexation of the Golan Heights is only one step in that direction. We believe that only Arab solidarity and cohesion can halt Israel. This is the only way to confront Israel's arrogance and aggression against the Arab nation. In Sudan, we frequently drew attention to the Israeli designs aimed at promoting tension and instability in the region to occupy more Arab territory under various flimsy justifications and claims.

Sudan calls for the adoption of a unified Arab strategy to deal with all eventualities. It was natural for us to support the Saudi initiative represented by Prince Faud ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's plan as being a suitable formula for rallying Arab efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and to restore the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

As for our participation in the next summit conference, committed as it is to the causes of our Arab nation, Sudan will always be willing to contribute to any positive Arab efforts, whether they fall under the headings of initiatives, bilateral contacts or Arab League proposals, to uphold the Arab causes and recover our usurped rights. As at all Arab summit conferences, Sudan's participation will be at presidential level.

[Question] Will Sudan take the initiative at the forthcoming conference of nonaligned states in Baghdad?

[Answer] Yes, Sudan will urge adherence to the principles of nonalignment as a precondition for membership in the organization. We believe any attempt to draw the organization toward any camp will only divide it. The organization derives its real strength and effectiveness from the principle of nonalignment with any of the big powers.

[Question] It has been reported that there are foreign bases in Sudan. Is this true?

[Answer] These are false claims fabricated by certain states as part of their propaganda campaign against Sudan. The Government and people of Sudan firmly believe in the principles of nonalignment and they also believe that the presence of one of the two superpowers means the presence of the other. We are opposed to any foreign presence in Africa or anywhere else.

Everyone knows that Sudan has made great efforts to keep the superpowers out of the Red Sea region and to turn it into a sea of peace. Sudan advocates the peaceful settlement of its problems with its neighbors and has called for the exclusion of war. Our aim is to keep the region well out of international conflicts so that Africa can concentrate on development to catch up with other advanced countries instead of being a hotbed of war.

Sudan, which last century fought and defeated a state that had colonies everywhere until independence was achieved, cannot possibly permit foreign presence on its territory.

GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT MEETINGS

Chad 1-2 Feb

JN241533 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA) — Sudan will participate in the meeting of the 12-man committee on Chad in its capacity as a member of the committee. The meeting will be held at the summit level on 1 and 2 February.

Western Sahara 8-9 Feb

JN241532 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA) -- It was learned here today that Sudan will participate in the summit conference on the Western Sahara, which will be held in Nairobi on 8 and 9 February.

Sudan also will participate in the foreign ministers' conference on the Western Sahara on 6 and 7 February.

The SUNA correspondent in Nairobi says that contacts are underway now to prepare for the foreign ministers' and summit meetings.

MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PRC

JN251754 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jan (SUNA) -- Sudan and the PRC signed here at noon today an agreement on military cooperation. The agreement comes within the framework of the agreements signed between Sudan and the PRC during Vice President Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil's visit to the PRC last December.

Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil received the visiting PRC delegation and asked it to convey his thanks to the PRC officials.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA SENDS CONDOLENCES ON SUSLOV DEATH

LD271336 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba today sent a cable of condolences to Soviet President Brezhnev following the death of Mikhail Suslov, member of the CPSU Politburo.

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU ADDRESSES 26 JAN RALLY ON RED SEA COAST

EA271910 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of COPWE [Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, confirmed that our shores, for which the blood and bones of countless numbers of our forefathers and mothers were sacrificed, will from now on be a source of benefit to us and not of attack against us.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam today spoke at a grand mass rally held at the Massawa seafront to mark the opening of the multipurpose revolutionary campaign meeting in the Eritrea region and to mark the day on which a new chapter was opened in the region's history.

In his speech at the grand mass rally at our land gateway to the sea, which has been defended with the blood and bones of our heroic forefathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that using all possible means of defense of the border post -- from where expansionists, invaders and colonialists have launched repeated attacks throughout our centuries-old history and where imperialists are now gathering -- is a great responsibility with which we have been entrusted by history and generations and which has fallen on the shoulders of all the working people.

The comrade chairman pointed out that no revolutionary citizen could view this responsibility separately from the overall development and genuine freedom for which he stands and confirmed that however great the sacrifice might be, our borders -- which were defended in the past by our forefathers and today by our revolutionary heroes -- will not be a source of our (?dismay).

Comrade Chairman Mengistu went on to say that because the measure of our victorious power is the protection of our borders in all directions, our coordinated and united arms [as heard] is the guarantee of this protection today and tomorrow. He said that including our coastal areas in our development plan, concentrating on them and making the people participate fully in development activities by organizing them and organizing their lives -- which are connected with the sea -- is the major task on which our development effort will be focused.

At the same mass rally, our revolutionary leader said there will never be peace and development if our gateway to the Red Sea, which is one of the most important parts of our country and which is crucial to its existence, is ignored. He added that the people should teach a final lesson to the secessionist bandits who are the tools and (?hopes) of imperialists and who do not feel even the slightest pain at the people's sufferings. He expressed the belief that the people will, through this decisive struggle, assert their existence and liberate their sons and daughters who, after being kidnapped and lured, are serving as the tools of others.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that although Ethiopia's desire is to protect its seashores and its right to use them, on the other hand, it knows the international character of the Red Sea very well. He also recalled the attacks launched through the gateway to that sea in the past centuries and the sacrifices made by Ethiopia's heroic sons and daughters.

SOMALIA

FRONT REFUTES ALLEGED MILITARY BUILDUP ON BORDER

EA272236 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] accused the Mogadishu regime's so-called Foreign Ministry of attempting to confuse the Somali people and international opinion. The DFSS spokesman added that the recent statement by the Mogadishu regime's so-called Foreign Ministry that foreign troops are causing tension throughout the Somali Democratic Republic's border areas is nothing more than a move to conceal the holy war being waged by the gallant DFSS forces and an attempt to get massive military aid from America, as well as hiding the true situation from the Somali masses and others in the world at large.

The DFSS spokesman said the Mogadishu regime is trying to hide the Somali people's opposition to its rule from the international masses. The DFSS spokesman added that this hue and cry by the Mogadishu regime that foreign troops are being massed on Somalia's border areas is nothing but a move to prepare the ground for a request for American military aid during Siad's forthcoming visit to America. The DFSS spokesman added that currently a Somali military delegation led by 'Umar Haji Muhammad Siad Barre is visiting America to solicit military aid.

The spokesman concluded that the forces fighting the dictatorial regime are the DFSS forces who have vowed to wage a holy war until final victory. The spokesman called on all foreign countries not to interfere in the internal affairs of Somalia.

BRIEFS

FRG ECONOMIC MINISTER -- Secretary General of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party and President of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Challe Mohamed Siad Barre received at his office this afternoon a delegation from the SDR-FRG Friendship Committee. Among the delegation was FRG Minister of Economic Cooperation Rainer Offergeld, who is currently on an official visit to Somalia. During a cordial conversation with the SDR-FRG Friendship Committee, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre expressed his appreciation and thanks to the government and people of the FRG for their continued assistance to Somalia. Challe Siad added that some of the projects funded by the FRG in Somalia are already benefiting the general masses. Some FRG-funded projects include agriculture, fishing and water-drilling in several regions of Somalia. Present on the occasion besides the SDR-FRG friendship delegation was the director of protocol, Challe Mohamed Usman Umar. [Text] [Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 24 Jan 82 EA]

TANZANIA

NYERERE URGES EFFORT TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC CRISIS

EA252136 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] Chairman Mwalimu Nyerere reiterated his appeal to the Tanzanian people to work extra hard to extricate the nation from its economic crisis. Mwalimu was closing the 4-day extraordinary congress of the party in Dar es Salaam.

He asked the people to exert maximum effort to face up to the country's severe economic predicament. He said: The major problems facing Tanzania are shortages of food and foreign reserves -- matters already mentioned in the national economic survival plan.

Chairman Nyerere said if the weather improves and if the people work harder, then the objective of producing sufficient food will be attained. He stressed that every citizen must do his duty. Mwalimu Nyerere said the aim of establishing sufficient foreign reserves is more difficult than the objective of producing sufficient food. However, he stressed that if people exert maximum efforts, within 2 years they will be able to restore the nation to the healthier state obtained before the present crisis.

He said livestock breeders can sell large numbers of their livestock, especially cattle, which are not plentiful in the neighboring countries, to earn foreign reserves.

The CCM chairman made it clear, however, that Tanzania and other developing countries are not the only ones facing economic problems -- so are even developed countries. He said that when setting targets the country must not imitate developed nations. Otherwise, it will grind to a halt. He said: We Tanzanians must recognize that we are economically backward and only thus will we be able to solve our problems.

Mwalimu also stressed the need to adhere to procedures pertaining to party, presidential and parliamentary elections. The CCM chairman said party procedures were infringed in the party elections in the last few years, as well as in the presidential and parliamentary elections the year before last. He said in the 1980 elections CCM leaders involved themselves with campaigning for people whom they favored to win in the general elections and even spent large sums of money to achieve their aims. Mwalimu said since Tanzania is one country with one party, the people must not introduce tribalism or religion into the elections because, by doing so, they will infringe on the elections procedures.

The meeting ended with Mwalimu's speech and the approval of amendments to the CCM Constitution.

Warns Against Disruption

EA252140 Dar es Salaam in English to East, Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] Dar es Salaam -- The chairman of the CCM [Chama Cha Mapinduzi] Mwalimu Nyerere, today called on party cadres to work hard in building [words indistinct] justice and equality in the country.

Addressing a rally in Dar es Salaam this afternoon organized by the party's mass organizations, Mwalimu said the time ahead will be difficult because there were people, some of them inside the party, who were bent on disrupting his efforts.

Mwalimu explained that there was evidence that a few party members, some of them in leadership positions, merely wanted to use the party for their own ends. He said these were now getting stubborn and it was the duty of party cadres, especially the youth, to deal with them.

The chairman also called on the people to understand the new party guidelines and use them to correct past mistakes as well as hitting hard at fifth columnists in the party.

CHAD

GOVERNMENT READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH FAN

AB271912 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Stockholm, 27 Jan (AFP) -- Chad's National Unity Government is prepared to negotiate with the rebel FAN but rebel leader Hissein Habre was not acceptable as a negotiator, President Goukouni Oueddei said in a Swedish radio interview broadcast today.

Interviewed by journalist Ragnar Edlund, who returned last week after spending six days in Chad, Mr Goukouni described the rebel leader -- his former defence minister -- as a criminal.

The president admitted that loyalist forces had suffered several military setbacks since Libyan troops pulled out at his request last November, and that the rebels had captured the important northern Chad crossroads town of Faya-Largeau.

We cannot hide the truth, but we hope that with our army more united and with material support from African countries we shall manage to push the rebels back, he said.

We are not worried, and I am certain that if the OAU countries keep their promises we shall be able to turn the situation in our favour.

An inter-African peace force is now in Chad, acting as a buffer between the rebel and government forces while a new Chadian army is created from the various loyalist factions.

HISSEIN HABRE'S FORCES TAKE CONTROL OF MANGALME

AB271607 Paris AFP in French 1344 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jan (AFP) -- Hisseine Habre's FAN has taken control of Mangalme in eastern Chad in Batha Province, 100 km south of Oum Hadjer, a FAN communique published in Khartoum announces. The communique says, without giving any details, that Mangalme joined Habre's forces last Monday.

OAU'S KODJO SAYS MISUNDERSTANDING DISSIPATED

AB271742 Paris AFP in French 1650 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 27 Jan (AFP) -- The misunderstanding between the OAU and the Chadian Government over the role of the inter-African peacekeeping force has been dissipated by President Goukouni Oueddei, OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo, who has been in Ndjamena since the beginning of the week, said today.

Kodjo, who made this statement after a meeting with the head of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad said he discussed matters concerning the presence of the OAU force with Goukouni Oueddei so that the path defined at previous meetings and summits would be followed.

The OAU secretary general did not indicate whether President Goukouni confirmed his participation in the forthcoming African summit in Nairobi on the Chadian issue. He said, however, that the summit will enable the participants to further consult with each other on the situation prevailing in Chad and to examine ways of reinforcing the material and financial package for the African peacekeeping force.

Kodjo, who is in Chad on a mission of consultation with his special representative in Ndjamena, Gebre Egziaber (Ethiopia) and Gen Geoffrey Ejiga (Nigeria), commander in chief of the neutral force, yesterday delivered a message from the current chairman of the OAU, Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, to the officers of this force. This is the first time the OAU has undertaken such an operation in an African country in spite of the scarcity of resources, President Moi's message emphasized. According to that message, the OAU forces should do everything to make the operation a success. The OAU president, the message adds, deplores the fact that some countries, having agreed to send contingents to Chad to defend the African cause, did not honor their commitments.

After a working session yesterday with officers of the general command of the neutral force, Kodjo was to go to Ati, Mongo and Bokoro (central Chad) where contingents of the OAU force have been deployed.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU RECEIVES SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER

AB261913 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1808 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 Jan (AZAP) -- Zaire and Senegal are determined to expand their cooperation in all fields, Moustapha Niasse, Senegalese minister of foreign affairs, said after his audience with the founding chairman of the MPR, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, at his Camp Tshatshi residence on Tuesday.

The Senegalese minister, who is leading his country's delegation to Kinshasa for the first session of the Zaire-Senegal joint cooperation commission, delivered a message from his head of state, President Abdou Diouf, to President Mobutu. In the message, President Diouf assures the father of the nation of his desire to see the bonds of bilateral cooperation further strengthened between Senegal and Zaire. Concerning the meeting of the Zaire-Senegal joint cooperation commission, Moustapha Niasse indicated that all the questions on bilateral cooperation will be examined with the aim of intensifying relations between the two countries. He expressed his satisfaction about the warm reception accorded him and his delegation by the authorities and the Zairian people. This reflects the privileged relations between our two heads of state and the fruitful relations between the Zairian and Senegalese peoples, he concluded.

ZAIRIAN, BULGARIAN MINISTERS EXCHANGE TOASTS

AB261925 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1804 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 Jan (AZAP) -- Zaire and the People's Republic of Bulgaria are determined to harness efforts of cooperation that will benefit both countries despite a difficult economic situation. This was stated during an exchange of toasts at a dinner party given at the Zoo Restaurant by Citizen Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga, secretary of state for international cooperation, in honor of the Bulgarian delegation.

Citizen Lengema said the presence in Kinshasa of an important Bulgarian delegation to take part in the first session of the Zaire-Bulgaria joint commission testifies to this desire. The setting up of the joint commission itself, he said, is a happy conclusion for relations between Zaire and Bulgaria. It also provides an ideal forum to discuss problems of bilateral relations. The Zairian statesman expressed the hope that the meeting currently taking place in Kinshasa will be successful for both parties and that it will bring the Zairian and Bulgarian peoples together. In his reply, Atanas Georgev Ginev, first vice minister for external trade and leader of the Bulgarian delegation, said people relations exist between Zaire and Bulgaria, adding that both countries should now make further efforts to develop and strengthen their trade relations. Citizen Pendje Demodetoo Yako, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Citizen Basele Ikondi Yabankoko Lopori, principal adviser at the office of the state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, attended the dinner party.

GHANA

PAPERS VIEW U.S., UK DENIAL OF INVASION PLOT

AB260850 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Press review]

[Text] Both the Ghanaian TIMES and the DAILY GRAPHIC comment on the denials yesterday by the United States Embassy and the British and Nigerian High Commissions that their governments are involved in a plot to invade Ghana to reinstate the Limann regime. The British described the report as unfounded while the Americans condemned the editorial comment on the report as irresponsible. The Nigerians also described the Ghanaian press as being uninformed about the working of the media in Nigeria.

Writing under the heading "We Won't Die Twice," the TIMES says it is rather irresponsible on the part of the United States Embassy to expect Ghanaians to be unconcerned when their country is threatened with foreign invasion. The paper's main concern is to let the Reagan administration see Ghana's ongoing people's revolution as it really is. It is a national process aimed at removing the master-servant relations from the social structure so that every Ghanaian can lead a decent life again. The TIMES points out that the revolution is a genuine people's national movement whose direction will not be determined by America's geopolitical or ideological calculations. Its direction will be determined only by the kind of society which Ghanaians want to establish for themselves. The paper therefore advises the American Embassy to play a useful role towards the success of the revolution by advising the Reagan administration not to adopt an attitude on the basis of America's own global political strategy. This is because whoever is tempted to take action to reverse the revolution or sabotage it in any way must be content with several realities. Ghanaians of all walks of life will fight fiercely to defend the revolution because it is the only hope that they have to control the nation's economy and make sure that the fruits of their toil benefit them themselves and not those who exploit their friends to live in luxury.

The DAILY GRAPHIC makes it clear that it is not interested in mudslinging for its sake. Anybody who thinks that mere diplomatic results are gospel truths is deceiving himself. For how many times did the American Government not lie to its own people that Vietnam would not be bombed and what nice words did we not hear from the U.S. envoy to the United Nations that the Tanzanian candidate for the UN secretary general's post will not be vetoed, asks the GRAPHIC. As for the British denial, the paper says the less said about it, the better. Ghanaians have already seen British Conservative reaction to their revolution in British newspapers. The GRAPHIC maintains that it has evidence to show that Western countries are watching critically how the Provisional National Defense Council conducts its democracy and human rights as if their destination is binding on all countries. But their imported democratic principles and parliamentary procedures, says the paper, have been found to be hypocritical slogans. The GRAPHIC says the revolution is a permanent one and is shaking the structure inherited at independence. The paper points out that Ghanaians believe in the doctrine of interdependence of states, but they cannot sacrifice their birthrights and the spirit of nationalism. They therefore hope other African countries will not give them the chance to give them names at this time of Ghana's national independence.

LIBERIA

STUDENT LEADERS PUT ON TRIAL; OTHERS DEMONSTRATE

AB271621 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] The trial of the six student leaders by the military tribunal was slated to continue today at the temple of justice in Monrovia.

However today's trial was closed to the press and no details emerged from the temple of justice at the broadcast time.

The student leaders presently facing the tribunal were ordered arrested last week by the People's Redemption Council [PRC] for allegedly contravening the council's decrese banning all political activites in the country.

Our reporter dispatched news from downtown Monrovia shortly before broadcast time that a group of students from the University of Liberia were seen marching on capitol bypass this afternoon chanting slogans and shouting "We want justice." They were later driven off the street by armed soldiers. Our reporter further informed us that the PRC adviser on political affairs, Gba Gbala, had gone to the university this morning to reconcile the conflict but failed to comment on his meeting with the university authorities. As he left campus, the students surrounded him shouting "We want justice."

Podier Warning

AB271940 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] The Liberian vice head of state, Maj Gen J. Nicholas Podier, has said that any student who violates the People's Redemption Council [PRC] decree baninng student political activities in the schools will be punished.

Major General Podier gave the warning today at his capitol building office in Monrovia at a press briefing. He said the ban imposed on political activities on school campuses by the PRC will not be changed in anyway. He cautionned parents to warn their children to stop such activities because he said the PRC is not a political party or a social organization.

The PRC co-chairman said the council is a military organization that came to power to bring freedom to the masses. Vice Head of State Podier stressed that all students who would like to engage in political activities must not plan immediately because the PRC would not hesitate to execute any decision handed down by the special military tribunal. He said although the PRC is not a civilian government it has the right to try anybody who tries to bring into the country foreign ideologies or go about agitating.

AFP: Leaders To Be Executed

AB280913 Paris AFP in English 0907 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Monrovia, 28 Jan (AFP) -- Five student leaders and a former student activist are to be executed here tomorrow for high treason, the radio of the country's military government announced here. The radio said the six would be shot by firing squad at dawn.

The condemned were named as: Liberia National Students' Union (LINSU) Acting President Ezekiel Pajibo, university student union President-elect Siapha Blackie, William V.S. Tubman College of Technology union President-elect Nyoma K. Brownwell, LINSU General Secretary Alaric Tokpa, Kpejee M.K. Woinor, and Foreign Affairs Ministry employee James Kwah. Mr Kwah, former president of the Baptist Junior College, was reported to have forged the signature of student leader Menyongai Wilson on an appeal to Mr Doe to reconsider the ban on student politics. Mr Menyongai was found not guilty and released by the tribunal, which was chaired by Major General Joseph Nimley Blamo.

ANGOLA

REPORTS ON LARA DELEGATION'S VISIT TO USSR

For further reports on the visit by Lucio Lara and his party-government delegation to the Soviet Union, including the communique, see the Sub-Saharan Africa section of the 27, 28 January and subsequent issues of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

SFRY SECRETARY VISITS MUSEUM, TALKS WITH NUJOMA

AB261750 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1628 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Luanda, 26 Jan (ANGOP) — The SFRY delegation, headed by Josip Vhrovec, federal secretary of foreign affairs of the SFRY, which has been in our country since Sunday, today visited the museum of anthropology in this city.

The leader of the SFRY delegation, who was accompanied by Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister Paulo Jorge, was told the meaning of the historic pieces displayed in the museum. Francisco Romeu and Dimitrije Babic, Angolan ambassador to the SFRY and SFRY ambassador to Angola respectively, accompanied the group.

In another development, the SFRY minister was received yesterday (Monday) in Luanda by Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO. According to the established program, the illustrious visitor will meet this afternoon with Paulo Jorge and Lopo do Nascimento, Angola's ministers of foreign affairs and planning and foreign trade, respectively.

Meets Dos Santos, Leaves

AB271245 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Angolan head of state Jose Eduardo dos Santos yesterday morning received SFRY Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Josip Vrhovec in audience at his Futungo de Belas office in Luanda. Also present at the audience was Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister Paulo Teixera Jorge.

The SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs left Luanda this morning at the end of his official visit to Angola.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES EEC-ACP DELEGATION

AB251221 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] The Angolan external relations minister, Paulo Jorge, yesterday held talks with the delegation of inquiry into the crimes of apartheid. The delegation to the People's Republic of Angola is led by the president of the EEC, Giovanni Bersani and the copresident of the EEC, Francis Boutagira. During the meeting, the Angolan official expressed his desire to the delegation to investigate into the apartheid crimes and to report later to their respective countries forming the European Parliament. The Angolan minister of external relations reaffirmed on the other hand our support to the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples under their respective vanguards SWAPO and the ANC, the liberation movements fighting for total independence.

On the other hand, Giovanni Bersani considered the commission's visit as an important one because it will help to obtain the exact idea of racist South Africa's aggression against Angola in order to study the means that apartheid could be destroyed.

Meanwhile, Francis Boutagira said the problem of southern Africa, besides the Namibian independence, is also the destruction of apartheid in the region and that the formation commission's presence in the People's Republic of Angola is to express solidarity to the struggle that the people of Angola are facing.

The delegation of the European Parliament and the Association of the Countries of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific, which arrived in Luanda on Saturday, also met with a delegation of the People's Assembly, led by its first secretary, Bernado da Soussa. The Angolan delegation was also composed of delegates Casimiro Franco, Ismael Martins; Cuelo da Cruz, president of the Angolan League for Friendship and Solidarity With the People; and Irena Neto, provincial coordinator of the Angolan women's organization.

During the meeting, the secretary of the People's Assembly commented on the prevailing situation south of the Angolan territory imposed by the Pretoria regime to destabilize the People's Republic of Angola. Comrade Bernado da Sousa said the racist South Africa's constant acts of aggression against Angola are due to the unflinching support that the country gives to the national liberation movements in southern Africa to liquidate the inhuman apartheid in Namibia and South Africa.

Group Departs 27 Jan

AB271813 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1720 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Luanda, 27 Jan (ANGOP) -- The committee of inquiry into the crimes of apartheid in southern Africa, left Luanda today on the second leg of its tour of the frontline states.

Just before leaving the 4 February International Airport, the chairman of the committee, Giovanni Bersani, told the press there was eloquent proof of the destruction and massacre caused by the aggression of the racist South African Army.

It will be recalled that this committee of inquiry on the crimes of apartheid stayed in Angola for 4 days during which time it went to the south of the country to compile evidence of the racist South African aggression. The evidence compiled will be submitted to the meeting of the joint ACP [Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific Countries]/EEC committee and the consultative committee of the European Parliament scheduled for Salisbury and whose agenda items will be the South African question and the repeated acts of aggression against the frontline states.

MADAGASCAR

SENIOR OFFICER, OTHERS ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED PLOT

AB271748 Paris AFP in English 1659 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Antananarivo, 27 Jan (AFP) -- One senior military officer, two priests and several civilians have been arrested in connection with an alleged plot against President Didier Ratsiraka of Madagascar, according to presidential palace sources here.

President Ratsiraka had earlier accused Roman Catholic priests of plotting with local sorcerers to make a thunderbolt fall on the presidential palace, as part of an alleged conspiracy against him announced earlier this week. He had then stated that three, not one, senior officers were involved.

President Ratsiraka, who was opening the new national library here, said mercenaries from South Africa were also linked to the plot, and that a Malagasy citizen had gone to South Africa to make contact with subversive elements.

The president referred to another incident, known here as the Savonnerie Tropicale affair, saying that arms, uniforms and plans had been found at the headquarters of the soap company and at the home of its owners, a wealthy family of the Merina tribe. He did not directly link the discovery to the plot, but was apparently anxious to assure a skeptical public opinion that there were genuine moves to destabilise his regime.

NAMIBIA

MUDGE SEES NO PROBLEMS WITH WESTERN PLAN

LD280112 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Ministers' Council of South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Dirk Mudge, says the ruling Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA] can find no serious faults with the first phase of the Western settlement plan and would like to move on to consideration of the second phase as soon as possible. Speaking at a news conference in Windhoek, Mr Mudge said the first phase of the plan implied acceptance of a one-man-one-vote election and the DTA had stated previously that it was determined to beat SWAPO in an election.

POLITICAL PARTIES AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO MERGE

LD280328 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] The president of the ruling South-West African/Namibia Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA] Party, Mr Peter Kalangula, says three political parties in the territory have agreed in principle to merge. In a brief statement after an all-day meeting in the northern town of Tsumeb, Mr Kalangula said that the National Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, led by Mr Andrew Kloppers of the colored people, and the Namibia People's Liberation Front had signed an agreement at a senior level with a view to becoming one party. Asked whether other parties would be asked to join the proposed merger, Mr Kalangula said other political parties would be approached after a merger committee had reported. The proposed new party would remain a component of the DTA. The purpose of the meeting had been to allow parties which were not members of the DTA to be accommodated in the alliance through existing member parties. A delegate to the meeting told newsmen that the new movement aimed to achieve national unity in South-West Namibia. [as heard]